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# JOURNEY

FROM

# *MOSCOW TO CONSTANTINOPLE,*

## IN THE YEARS 1817, 1818.

8548
cc

BY

WILLIAM MACMICHAEL, M.D. F.R.S

ONE OF DR RADCLIFFE'S TRAVELLING FELLOWS
FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

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LONDON:
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# PREFACE.

THE rapidity with which the following journey was performed will sufficiently account for the very imperfect observations contained in its recital; though I am afraid it will be more obviously urged as a reason why the narrative should have been withheld altogether from the Public. But, the establishment of the imperial court in the antient capital of Moscow, the details of the restoration of that city, and the route thence to Constantinople, are circumstances that have, at least, the recommendation of novelty; and any information concerning the critical and unsettled political relations of the contiguous empires of Russia and Turkey, with which the recent flight of the Hospodar of Wallachia will probably be found to be connected, may have its value, especially when viewed with reference to the actual state of tranquillity of the rest of Europe. These considerations may not, however, prove sufficient to give much interest

to so hasty a narrative; though, for my own part, I shall always reflect with great satisfaction on the adventures of a journey during which I enjoyed the pleasure of the society of my friend Mr. Legh, one of the most enterprising travellers of the present age; and who has the merit of having been the first, since the days of Norden, to pass the formidable barrier of the cataracts of Syene, and to demonstrate the practicability of penetrating into Nubia, a country where so many curious discoveries still continue to be made.

# VALUE OF RUSSIAN AND TURKISH MONEY.

A ROUBLE contains 100 copecks. According to the rate of exchange upon London, at Petersburgh, during the winter of 1817, 20 roubles were given for a pound sterling.

One rouble in silver at that time equalled in value four roubles of the depreciated paper. The quantity of silver contained in the silver rouble, and consequently its value, have undergone very little variation during the last century*.

* From a passage in a speech made by Lord Carlisle to the Czar Alexey Michailovitz (1664), it would seem, however, unless there be an error in his calculation, that a very great and almost incredible difference existed between the quantity of silver in a rouble of that period, and in one of the date of Peter the Great, though the interval of time amounts scarcely to forty years. The object of the mission of Lord Carlisle to the court of Moscow was to procure the restitution of the commercial privileges formerly enjoyed by the English merchants at Archangel, but of which they had been deprived by the Czar, on the pretext of their having been involved in the rebellion against Charles I. The Czar, previously determined not to grant the request, used every argument to evade the question, and amongst other difficulties which were thrown in the way, made a demand of an extravagant loan from Charles II., of which the ambassador speaks in the following terms:

"I hope so impossible a summe to the greatest prince of Christendome to advance on the sudden, being I may name it to your Tzarskoy Majesty, ten thousand poods of silver, to the value of above thirty hundred thousand rubles, was not demanded on purpose to have a pretext to deny the privileges, and by proposing an impossibility to refuse what is rational."—*A Relation of Three Embassies*, p. 270.

But a poud = 40 lbs. Russian (36 lbs. avoirdupois) each containing 32 loths = 1280 loths × 3 = 3840 solotnicks. Now a rouble = $6\frac{1}{8}$ or 6.125 solotnicks; therefore a poud = $\frac{3840}{6 \cdot 125}$ = 627 roubles, consequently 10,000 pouds = 6,270,000 roubles, instead of only 3,000,000, the number mentioned by Lord Carlisle. It is probable, therefore, that there is a great blunder in the calculation of the ambassador, which has consequently taken from his argument more than one half of its force.

# JOURNEY,

*&c. &c.*

THE imperial family had occupied for several weeks the palace of the Kremlin, when the numerous balls and fêtes, given to celebrate the reviving splendour of Moscow, were suddenly suspended by the melancholy news of the death of our lamented Princess Charlotte. At this gloomy moment we reached the ancient capital of the Czars; I had passed some time amongst its ruins three years before, and was now to witness the almost incredible efforts of Russian industry in repairing the devastations of the campaign of 1812. Early in the morning of the 4th December, when the curtain of the *kibitka*, in which we had travelled from Petersburg, was drawn aside, and we ventured to thrust our heads through the congealed breath that coated and stiffened the hairs of our bearskin pelisses, the moon's crescent was seen illuminating the gilded domes and grotesque turrets of this immense city. It is justly observed by the author of "A Re-"lation of Three Embassies, performed by the Right Hon.

" the Earl of Carlisle in 1663 and 1664," that " Moscovie, " being scituat in so cold a climate, no wonder if the winters be " very long there, and the frosts exceeding violent, especially " in the most northerly provinces." (p. 28) ; and as the thermometer indicated —24°. Reaumur, we felt the full force of the truism in all its wretchedness. To obtain lodgings in any part of the town, now crowded with the suite of the Emperor and the various strangers attracted by the residence of the court, had been represented to us as impossible ; and, having made several fruitless attempts to procure accommodation, we thought ourselves lucky in being permitted, at length, to enter the garret of a most filthy Russian hotel.

We were the bearers of the official despatches to his Excellency Lord Cathcart; but the news of our great national loss had already preceded us, having been conveyed the day before to the Emperor, by a courier sent from Hamburg, who had taken the more direct route of Warsaw.

The demonstrations of grief on the part of the court were perhaps increased by the situation of the Grand Duchess Nicholas, from whom the empire looked to receive in a few months its future sovereign ; and the accidental coincidence of the same name, Charlotte, gave additional strength to all sinister forebodings in the minds of a people whose superstition forms not the least striking feature of their character. The nobility of Moscow sent a deputation of condolence to our ambassador, announcing that the grand fête, which they

were on the point of giving, in honour of the visit of the imperial family, was postponed to a distant day. But the exterior of the town and the examination of the astonishing progress that had been made in rebuilding the lately desolated capital, were objects of interest sufficient to occupy our curiosity, reconcile us in a great measure to the severity of the climate, and compensate for the want of comfort we experienced within doors. Our inn, with the exception of the garret allotted to ourselves, was full; through the crevices of the floor of our apartment, the piercing wind was constantly rushing, the effect of which the small stove in the corner was little able to counteract. In the day time innumerable mice were playing about, and at night swarms of bugs carried on their merciless attacks. A Russian officer's servant in the adjoining room was continually singing his monotonous ditty, and in the passage near our door was collected a crowd of fragrant *Mougiks*, regaling themselves over a brazen jar of hydromel. Compared with such miseries at home, the inclemency of the weather without was not to be regarded. In a sledge, and enveloped in good warm pelisses, we spent a great part of our time in the streets of Moscow. Of the ruins of a city that had contained a population of between three and four hundred thousand souls, many vestiges were still visible, but the great advances made towards obliterating the traces of disaster, were almost inconceivable.

Before the conflagration, which commenced on the 3d Sept., 1812, the houses of Moscow were estimated numerically at 12,000, but under each number were comprehended two, three, and sometimes even four, distinct dwellings. The greater part were of wood, the rest were built of brick, faced with stucco; of the whole number, it was calculated that nine-tenths were consumed. The quarter of the town, called the Bielgorod, (the White City,) was preserved by the exertions of the French, and the Kremlin, where Buonaparte lived, remained untouched, till the morning of the 23d October, when several parts of it were destroyed by the four distinct explosions, that announced the final departure of the enemy.

" By the two first explosions," says Mr. James*, " part " of the walls, and one of the towers towards the river, " were destroyed; by the third, the church of St. Nicho- " las, and the four great bells of Moscow were blown up " with tremendous violence; at the same moment, the " lofty tower of Ivan Veliki, the first of the Czars, was rent " from the top to the base. The fourth shock was by far " the most dreadful; the walls of the arsenal, which were " upwards of three yards in thickness, with a part of the " gate of St. Nicholas, and several adjacent pinnacles, " were at once blown into the air; a concussion succeeding, " that shook the whole city to its foundations." p. 386.

* Journal of a Tour in Germany, Sweden, Russia Poland, &c.

In the summer of 1814, when I visited Moscow, in company with my friend, to whose full and accurate details of that eventful period I have nothing to add, few of the marks of the devastation, which he has described, had been removed; but the scene was now greatly changed, within the precincts of the fortress every building had been renovated. The Empress Mother occupied the *bel étage* of one of the chief palaces, and the standard of Alexander waved over the former residence of Napoleon. The remaining members of the imperial family, with part of their numerous suites, were accommodated, as well as the confined apartments would admit, in other buildings within the walls of the Kremlin. To see the court of Russia established on the banks of the Moskwa, recalled the days of the Dukes of Moscovie, the Ivans and the Fedors, before the policy of Peter the Great had forcibly transferred the seat of government from the centre of the empire to the shores of the Baltic.

One morning we mounted to the summit of the famous tower, the "Great John," to enjoy the magnificent panoramic view seen from that elevation. Below us, the Czar of Casan, Astrachan, and Siberia, the self-upholder of all the Great, White, and Little Russia, accompanied by the Grand Dukes Nicholas and Michael, and Prince William of Prussia, was reviewing the Imperial Guards on the esplanade of the Kremlin. Immediately beneath the walls

of the fortress, was seen the frozen river that gives its name to the city; and beyond it, the quarter, which has a Russian appellation expressive of its situation, "on the "other side the Moskwa," analogous to the Trastevere of Rome, and which still exhibits many melancholy traces of destruction. Still farther towards the west, the flat landscape, wrapped in one uniform covering of snow, appeared bounded by the inconsiderable eminences called the Sparrow Hills. Turning round, the Kitaigorod, or Chinese city, where are the Exchange, and the chief magazines of the merchants, seemed entirely rebuilt, as well as the greater part of the Semlianigorod, and the Slobode, or Fauxbourg. But the palaces of the nobles remain much in the state in which they were left by the fire, nor is it likely that they will be speedily repaired. It is well known, that though Petersburg has been for a century the residence of the Emperor and of the great officers attached to the court, yet the costly hotels and immense establishments of the chief nobles of Russia have been always to be found at Moscow, —of their magnificence an idea may be formed from the statement, that the number of domestics maintained in the household of the Countess Orloff, amounts to eight hundred. It is true, she is the richest heiress of the empire, and fortunately did not suffer in the general calamity consequent on the invasion of the French, but from the enormous retinue of serfs in her hotel, some notion of the proportionate scale

observed in minor establishments, may be acquired. The ruins of palaces, capable of containing so many inmates, are not easily repaired; besides, it is said, that if some of the proprietors have been hitherto restrained from building by the want of funds, others have been glad of a pretext to remain quietly on their estates in the country.

The regalia of the empire and the curious reliques of the patriarchal palace, which had been removed to Nizney Novgorod, during the occupation of the city by the troops of Buonaparte, having been brought back with the restoration of peace, were the chief objects of curiosity in the Kremlin, exhibited to strangers. In the patriarchal palace, are preserved the splendid robes of the former haughty rulers of the Russian church, the bridles of whose horses were held on solemn processions by the Czar himself; and of these, together with the precious stones that were reported to be found there in great profusion, we were promised an inspection, through the kindness of M. Storch, who procured us admission. But the Archimandrite had failed in his appointment, and on ascending the narrow steps of the palace, which brought us into some dark chambers, resembling dungeons, we found two ignorant priests, awaiting our arrival. As they had not the keys of the wardrobes, and were unable to gratify our curiosity, we were obliged to content ourselves with peeping through some glass cases, at diamonds, rubies and sapphires, many of which had the

appearance of being factitious. The treasury, however, recompensed us for our disappointment; in one wing we saw the crowns of Casan, Astrachan, Georgia and Poland, enriched with superb turquois, the imperial robes, and coronation chairs, from the time of Peter the Great, besides magnificent presents from Persia, and a remarkably fine collection of silver-gilt embossed plate. In another part of the building were kept the sword worn by Peter at the battle of Pultawa, and the litter in which the wounded Charles XII. was carried on the same celebrated occasion. A rare display of Damascus swords, housings for horses, and saddles studded and literally covered with pearls, rubies, sapphires and turquois, formed a most imposing sight, and worthy of the greatness of the Russian empire. But as we passed through a gate to the north-west of the Kremlin, this feeling of admiration was a little disturbed by a scene of a very different description. Below the fortress in the fosse, to the left, were crowded together four or five hundred *Mougiks*, shivering with cold and clad in the most wretched manner.

With the squalid appearance of a horde of the rudest savages, they were eagerly devouring their portions of meagre soup, cooked before them in the open air, which happened at that moment to be of the temperature of —25° Reaumur. Thus it is, in this strange country; every thing is in extremes. The sumptuous palace is placed by the wooden hut; in the streets, the unintelligible Slavonian dialect is heard, mingled

with accents of the purest French; on one side, you are jostled by a *petit maître*, on the other come in rough contact with an unsophisticated bearded *Mougik*. The very climate partakes of the same excessive inconvenience, for if the winter is too cold, the summer is too hot. The heat during the latter season rises often to 28° Reaumur = 95 Fahrenheit; and in the winter of some few years ago, Professor Fischer observed by the spirit thermometer, a degree of cold corresponding to —37° Reaumur, in the neighbourhood of Moscow. As we continued our walk, we came to the spot, on the mound to the north-west of the walls of the Kremlin, nearly opposite the palace of Pashkov, where workmen were employed in finishing the immense building, called the *Exercir-Haus*. Of dimensions said to be greater than those of any other room in the world, whose roof is unsupported by columns, it is of brick, with the exception of the *soubassement*, which is of red sandstone, obtained from quarries in the neighbourhood. When the severity of the winter will not allow the troops to be paraded in the open air, their evolutions are to be performed in this enormous apartment. On the other side of the Kremlin, in the open space before the sacred gate, and in front of the church of the Blessed William, which was considered of such curious construction, that the Czar Ivan the Terrible, caused the eyes of the architect to be put out, in order that he might not be employed in erecting any similar edifice, stands the colossal

group of bronze, intended to commemorate the recent delivery of the city from the hands of the enemy, the subject of which is taken from the following historical event.

In the turbulent interregnum that succeeded the rival pretensions of Chouiski and the false Demetrius, the troops of Sigismond, king of Poland, aided by a faction of discontented boyars in his interest, took possession of Moscow in the year 1611, burnt a considerable part of the city, pillaged the churches, and exercised the greatest cruelties towards its defenceless inhabitants. Having fortified themselves in their position, they bade defiance to the rest of the empire; and the state of anarchy which every where prevailed, offered no prospect to the Russians, that their country would be speedily delivered from the ravages of its enemies. At this moment of despondency, however, Kozma-Minin, an obscure inhabitant of Nizney-Novgorod, by trade a butcher, assembled and harangued his fellow-citizens, exhorted them to make every sacrifice for the good of the state, and endeavour to expel their insolent oppressors. Troops were collected from Dorogobouge, Viazma, and the territory of Smolensko; and, at the suggestion of Minin, the Prince Pojarski who had narrowly escaped with his life during the time of the assassinations committed by the Poles at Moscow, was nominated to the command of the patriotic army. The capital, in the hands of the enemy, is rigorously blockaded, and the inhabitants

reduced to the greatest extremity by famine, and the usual miseries attendant on a long siege. The humane Pojarski yields to the humble solicitations of the rebel boyars within the walls of Moscow, and kindly receives their wives, for whom they were no longer able to procure sustenance. But the siege is carried on with unabating vigour, and the Cossacks, under their leader Troubetski, who had joined the camp of Pojarski, take the Kitaigorod by assault, making the greatest havoc among the Poles. The besieged intrench themselves, however, in other parts of the city, until their distress increases to such a height, that after a resistance of eighteen months, during the latter part of which period, they were obliged to live on the most disgusting food, cats, dogs, rats, and even the flesh of their fellow-sufferers, they are compelled to capitulate, under the simple stipulation that they should not be put to death. The sculptor has selected this portion of Russian history, related more circumstantially by l'Evesque*, on which to found the story of the monument, that is to perpetuate the memory of the retreat of the French from Moscow. On a lofty pedestal of granite, the figure of Pojarski, is represented in a sitting posture, his right hand resting on a short sword, and, with a stern countenance, he is apparently ruminating on the disasters of his country. The heroical Minin stands by his side; with his left hand, he touches

* Histoire de Russie, Tom. III.

the sword of Pojarski, and with his right points upwards, indicating that the hope of deliverance must come from the interposition of Heaven. Moros is the name of the Russian artist, and the statues were cast at Petersburg, and conveyed by water from that capital to Moscow. During our stay at the latter place, they were not exhibited to the public eye, but concealed by a temporary building of wood, and it was with difficulty I obtained the glance which enables me to give the above general description. On the 6th January, (the Russian Christmas-day,) the ceremony of blessing the waters was to take place, the statues to be exposed, and the review of 120,000 troops was expected to increase the splendour and solemnity of the occasion.

The burning of Moscow, the theme of admiration of the present age, will descend to posterity as one of the most remarkable events of the late war; and since the obstinacy of the Russians in refusing to appropriate to themselves the glory of the deed, has thrown an obscurity on the affair, any anecdote that tends to illustrate the history of that disaster, may be thought worth preserving. Among the inhabitants who made their escape on the approach of the French, was a merchant of the highest respectability, who, carrying with him what property he could collect, left his home and fled to Petersburg. On the entrance of the enemy, his residence, situated in the Bielgorod, the quarter that ultimately escaped conflagration, was occupied by one of the chief officers of

the *etat major*. Some days after, a Russian servant of the proprietors, who had remained behind, made various attempts to secrete himself about the premises, but was as often detected and repulsed; until, at the request of the temporary police established by Buonaparte, he was admitted, under pretence of taking care of the furniture and other property of his absent master. But no sooner had he fixed himself in his old quarters, than he was discovered making several ineffectual trials to set the house on fire; and when interrogated as to the motive for such extraordinary conduct, coolly replied, that "every thing around "him was burning, and he did not see why his master's "house should escape." With a degree of lenity almost surprising in an enraged enemy, he was only thrust out of doors, discontented at his own want of success, and evidently considering his master and himself disgraced by not being permitted to partake of the general sacrifice. But this feeling seems now to have subsided; and the Russians, so far from assuming to themselves the merit of so heroical an act, have the strange inconsistency of ascribing it to the French, to whom the burning of the city, and the destruction of the magazines it contained, were the severest calamities. Connected with the question of who set fire to Moscow, is the destiny of the governor of the city during that momentous period. Whether the decisive step was the result of the determined zeal of Count Rostopchin, taking

upon himself the tremendous responsibility of so bold a measure, or only carried into execution by his immediate orders, after having received the countenance of higher authority; still, as the destruction of the town is allowed on all hands to have been the saving of the empire, it would seem that the gratitude of the nation could not be too strongly expressed towards the governor of Moscow. And yet Count Rostopchin was soon after removed from his appointment, and has now leave to travel. An explanation of this obscure occurrence has been given, which is extremely curious, and illustrates in a strong point of view the mutability of popular favour. A short time before the arrival of the French, a Hamburg paper was stopped at the post-office, containing a pretended prophecy, that the enemy would soon be in possession of the two capitals of Russia, and the Czar driven beyond Casan. Through the indiscretion of the son of the post-master, the paragraph was shewn to a young man who translated it into the Russian language, by which means it soon became universally circulated. The effect of this unlucky prophecy on the minds of a bigoted people, may easily be conceived, and the indignation of the governor was naturally directed against the publisher of such an ill-timed and ominous report.

He was accordingly imprisoned, and during the interrogation that followed, it appears that zeal for the public welfare carried the governor too far; for after having upbraided

the unfortunate culprit with his treasonable conduct, he struck him with his sword; and, finally, gave him up to be torn in pieces by the mob, and the Cossacks assembled in the court of his house. At this season of doubt, anxiety, and popular fury, his fate did not excite much attention; the important events which immediately succeeded sufficiently occupied the public mind, and Count Rostopchin was continued in his office for a year and a half after the evacuation of the country by the French. But when the return of peace had brought with it more moderate sentiments and cooler reflection, the conduct of the governor was canvassed in the moments of security. The friends of the wretched victim loudly demanded redress, and the post-master, who had been sent to Siberia, petitioned to be recalled from his exile. In short, the tide of popular feeling had taken a contrary direction, and notwithstanding the powerful protection of one branch of the imperial family, it was thought expedient to sacrifice the zealous governor. A sum of money was given by the emperor to the father of the indiscreet translator, and the post-master was elevated to the rank of a senator.

The entire destruction of a capital, on the approach of an enemy, by the spontaneous and heroical devotion of its inhabitants, is unprecedented in the annals of history; for the Athenians, when they fled to Salamis, were content to

evacuate their native city and leave its empty walls to receive the advancing Persians; but it would seem that few towns have been more subject to conflagration from various and accidental causes than the ancient metropolis of Russia.

Moscow began to be considered the capital of Russia in the time of Dmitri Ivanovitch, who possessed the throne in the year 1380; and it was during his reign that the Tartars of Sarai and of the Volga sacked the city and put its inhabitants to the sword. On the retreat of these formidable invaders Dmitri, who had fled to Kostroma, returned to Moscow, which he rebuilt, and constructed the Kremlin, or fortress, of stone.

"But before this period, in 1245, the civil discord of the "great dukes or princes of Russia," says Gibbon, "betrayed "their country to the Tartars. They spread from Livonia "to the Black Sea, and both Moscow and Kiow, the "modern and the ancient capitals, were reduced to ashes; "a temporary ruin, less fatal than the deep, and perhaps "indelible, mark which a servitude of two hundred years "has imprinted on the character of the Russians."—*Gibbon's Decline and Fall*, Vol. XI. p. 420.

In the reign of Ivan Vassilievitch, the first Czar, the Tartars of the Crimea, at the instigation of Poland, made an inroad into Russia, and set fire to Moscow, in the flames of which 100,000 people are said to have perished. The fol-

lowing relation of this event is to be found in Hakluyt's Collection of the early Voyages, Travels, and Discoveries, of the English Nation.—Vol. I. p. 452.

" A letter of Richard Vscombe to M. Henrie Lane, touch-
" ing the burning of the citie of Mosco, by the Crimme Tar-
" tar, written in Rose Island, the 5. day of August, 1571."

" Master Lane I have me commended unto you. The
" 27 of July I arriued here with the Magdalene, and the
" same day and houre did the Swalow and Harry arriue
" here also.—At our comming I found Master Proctor here,
" by whom wee vnderstand very heavie newes. The
" Mosco is burnt euerie sticke by the Crimme, the
" 24. day of May last, and an innumerable number
" of people: and, in the English house was smothered
" Thomas Southam, Tofild, Waverley, Greenes wife and
" children, two children of Rafe, and more to the
" number of 25 persons were stifeled in our beere
" seller: and yet in the same seller was Rafe, his
" wife, John Browne and John Clarke preserued,
" which was wonderfull. And there went into that
" seller Master Glouer and Master Rowley also: but
" because the heate was so great, they came foorth againe
" with much perill, so that a boy at their heeles was
" taken with the fire, yet they escaped blindfold into
" another seller, and there, as God's will was, they were

" preserued. The Emperour fled out of the field, and " many of his people were carried away by the Crimme " Tartar: to wit, all the yong people; the old they " would not meddle with, but let them alone; and so " with exceeding much spoile, and infinite prisoners, " they returned home againe. What with the Crimme " on the one side, and with his crueltie on the other, " he hath but few people left. Commende me to Mistresse " Lane your wife, and to M. Locke, and to all our " friends. Yours to command, Richard Vscombe."

Still later, about the middle of the 17th century, during the embassy of Lord Carlisle to the Czar, Alexis Michaelovitz, these accidents seem to have been very frequent, and to an extent that makes even the fires of Constantinople appear insignificant. " I have before represented Mosco," says the author of the relation of these embassies, " much sub- " ject to fire, and we had three instances of it during our " residence there. The greatest of all happened on Easter- " day, but devoured only some hundreds of houses; and yet " there was no more notice taken of it than of the two " other. For to make a conflagration remarkable in this " country, there must be at least seven or eight thousand " houses consumed. But they have this advantage at " Mosco, that they may buy houses ready made, especially " in that part of the town called Scoradom, which houses

" they take to pieces; and, having carried them to the " place where they designe their habitation, it requires no " great time to put them together again."—p. 301.

At the close of the same century, it is probable, the destruction of the city from the same cause was very considerable; as the accident, though its extent is not specified, is recorded by Evelyn in his Diary, in the following terms:— " 1699. 23d. July. The city of Moscow burnt by the " throwing of squibs." But the late calamity, as it was distinguished from all preceding conflagrations by the noble enthusiasm by which it was occasioned, perhaps exceeded all others in the extent of its ravages; the city, however, has risen from its ruins, still preserving the singularly Asiatic character of its churches and public edifices, but improved and beautified in the wideness of its streets and the greater uniformity of its private buildings.

Though, in the winter, the climate of Moscow is generally extremely severe, a considerable variation in the thermometer takes place, even within very short intervals. On the day of our arrival, the 4th December, the mercury stood at —24° Reaumur (equal to 54° Fahrenheit, below the freezing of water). On the day following, the cold was still greater, being —25° Reaumur; on the 6th it was only —15°, on the 8th —7°, and on the 10th day it thawed, the thermometer indicating 2° of heat. It is curious to remark in this country the importance of the thermometer; instead of the vague

observations made by people whose conversation is of wind and of weather in more moderate climates, the degree of cold is spoken of by women, children, and bearded peasants, with a precision that to the ear of the stranger has all the effect of scientific affectation.

In the summer, as has before been observed, the heat often rises to 95° Fahrenheit, and at that season of the year it is usual to have a thunder-storm every day. It is scarcely possible to conceive any thing more singular than the spectacle presented in the streets of a northern city during their long protracted periods of intense cold. The vast number of sledges, the tinkling of the bells suspended at the necks of the horses, the frozen beards of the peasants clothed in sheep skins, the rapidity with which every one glides along, apparently eager to reach some shelter from the severe and merciless frost, form a novel, and, at the same time, a melancholy sight. In Moscow flights of carrion crows, either hopping about in search of food, or perched on the branches of the leafless trees in the gardens of a few houses, added to the comfortless character of the picture. The horses and the drivers of the sledges are exposed for hours, and even for the whole day, to the inclemency of the weather, the prospect of gaining a few copeks rendering the *Mougiks* insensible to the severity of the elements. The class, distinguished by this appellation, forms a great proportion of the population of Petersburg

and Moscow, and, having obtained permission from the landed proprietors whose serfs they are, on the payment of a certain sum or obroc, to resort to the great towns, engage in various trades and employments, by which they acquire a livelihood. Sometimes, indeed, they amass large fortunes, but as a serf cannot possess either houses or lands in his own name, he is obliged in these cases to borrow that of his lord, who thus becomes the nominal proprietor of the estate of his peasant, and might, if faithless, seize upon it at any moment, and appropriate it to his own use. It is even an ostentation amongst many nobles, to have it said, that they possess serfs distinguished for their opulence. The richest individual in Russia is Count Sheremetof, a minor, who has 120,000 serfs, and an income of 3,000,000 of roubles. In estimating the value of an estate, the number and price of the peasants are the only circumstances specified; on some properties, where the land is indifferent, a serf will not fetch more than three or four hundred roubles; while on others, particularly on small estates where the soil is productive, he will be estimated at 1,000 roubles. The present emperor is represented to entertain the favourite scheme of liberating the serfs, but to encounter considerable opposition on the part of the nobles to such a measure.

A constitution, conferring on the great landed proprietors adequate privileges in lieu of the seigneurial

rights they now exercise over their vassals, would justly be demanded; for if the noble is entitled to regard his serfs as belonging to the soil, he has himself, on the other hand, no protection against the mandate of the emperor, which may send him to Siberia, without assigning any cause for his exile. The power of life and death over his serfs is not vested in the noble, but the right of corporal punishment is in his hands; and should this be exercised so severely as to occasion fatal consequences, it is well understood that the bribe of 100 roubles will purchase the silence and connivance of the magistrate. And when it is recollected that most of these civil officers have been raised from the rank of domestics, and that their yearly appointments amount only to 100 roubles, it is not reasonable to expect, that they should be quite inaccessible to temptations of a pecuniary nature.

An excellent code of laws is said still to exist, which was promulgated in an assembly of the nobles, by the great Ivan Vassilievitch, and known by the name of *Joudebnik*. There are also some few edicts of the time of Peter the Great; but the truth is, that every succeeding or contradictory ukase of the emperor has the effect of a law, giving rise to a system of intrigue and abuse, not the most favourable to the liberties of the subject. So formidable a despotism, when in the

hands of the present enlightened, liberal, and humane ruler, may not be productive of any excesses; but it must be confessed, that the actual state and political condition of the natives of Russia, differs little from the following description, written more than a century ago.

" The emperour exerciseth absolute power; if any " man die, without male issue, his land returns to the " emperour. Any rich man, who, through age or other " impotence, is unable to serve the publick, being " informed of, is turned out of his estate, and forced, " with his family, to live on a small pension, while " some other more deserving, is, by the duke's authority, " put into possession. The manner of informing the " duke is thus. ' Your grace,' saith one, ' hath such a " subject, abounding with riches, but for service of the " state unmeet, and you have others poor, and in want, " but well able to doe their country good service.' " Immediately the duke sends forth to enquire, and " calling the rich man before him: ' Friend,' saith he, " ' you have too much living, and are unserviceable to " your prince; less will serve you, and the rest main- " tain others who deserve more.' The man thus called " to impart his wealth repines not, but humbly answers, " that all he hath is the duke's, as if he made resti-

" tution of what more justly was another's, than parted " with his own*."—p. 13. Until, therefore, a free and equitable constitution be substituted for the present despotic form of government, it is not likely that the nobles will willingly relinquish the authority they exercise over their serfs.

But, laying aside the objection of the nobles, the Russian peasant is so little advanced in civilization, has so feeble a sense of his degraded condition, that it is much to be questioned, whether, if the offer of liberty were fairly made and explained to him, with all its shewy advantages of dignity and elevation in the scale of humanity, he would be able to appreciate the value of the boon, or willing to alter his present situation. As he is, the necessaries of life are abundantly supplied to him, and he naturally looks to his lord for protection against the vexations of the law. He is expected to work three days in the week for the proprietor of the estate, and receives an allotment of fifteen acres of land, to maintain himself and his family. On the other hand, he is liable to punishment for misconduct, which is generally awarded by the sentence, and at the discretion, of the *antient* of the village, who is, like himself,

* Description of Moscovia, by John Milton.—1682. This curious book is said to have been in the hand-writing of its celebrated author.

a peasant. In these cases, however strange it may appear, the discipline is usually more severe than if left to the decision of the proprietor himself.

On the subject of the present state of intellectual refinement in the empire of Russia, the following just observations are made by a late writer of Travels in the Caucasus and Georgia, M. Julius von Klaproth, who, from particular circumstances, is not likely to return into that country, and therefore can have no motive for withholding his opinions.

" The political constitution of Russia," says he, " offers " an insurmountable obstacle to the progress of know- " ledge and civilization in that country. It is an ex- " ceedingly injudicious step to attempt to introduce know- " ledge into Russia by means of foreigners, and to raise " a fabric which requires the labour of ages, as expe- " ditiously as a triumphal arch may be patched up. " The whole nation is divided into two parts, masters " and slaves, and till a middle class of citizens shall " arise in Russia, no exertions of the various German " professors, who are employed in the different uni- " versities of the empire, will effect a real diffusion of " knowledge." p. 77.

To this picture of the state of society, it must be added, that the imprudence of the peasant too often keeps pace with his ignorance, and that the vice of

drunkenness, so prevalent among them, is productive of the most mischievous consequences.

In that part of Poland annexed to Russia, the Jews are always at hand to supply the thoughtless serf with spirits, distilled from rye; for which, as he possesses little or no money, he pays with the grain intended for seed. As the season advances, when this is required, the peasant is obliged to have recourse to the retailer of spirits, who is glad, on condition of receiving two thirds of the harvest*, to advance the seed required for the future crops. Thus the inconsiderate serf is ruined both in his pocket and in his health; and when embarrassed, and guilty of misconduct, is marked out as a recruit, and sent to the army. The transformation of a peasant into a soldier is a very summary process, in which the barber and the tailor perform the most striking, and not the least essential offices. As soon as he is caught, he is deprived of the hairy appendage which formerly decorated his chin, and being then encased in a coat excessively wadded about the shoulders, and tightened at the

* The following anecdote of Hebrew avarice I heard at Moscow, related by the most credible authority:

In the retreat of the French, the city of Wilna was left so full of dead, that a contract was made with the Jews, to cleanse the town, and carry out the pestilential bodies. They were to receive five silver copecks for each corpse, but not content with the profit on the dead, they were detected throwing the dying out of the windows of the hospitals, to swell the amount of their claims.

waist, he stands erect, with very much the appearance of an insect, set up upon its hinder legs. In this costume, with a suitable instruction in the mystery of marching and countermarching, he is as mere a machine, and, consequently, as good a soldier, as can well be imagined. The pay he receives amounts only to 15 roubles a year, but, as he has allowances, the condition of a common Russian soldier, is superior in comfort to that of the subaltern officers. An ensign receives 250 rbls. per annum; a captain of the guards, 800 rbls.; and a captain of horse artillery, with the rank of colonel, 1,200 rbls. In time of war, when the army is engaged in actual service, all these sums are paid in silver roubles, each of which is equal to about four paper roubles. But it must appear from this statement, that such pay is very inadequate to the support of an officer, who, unless he have a private fortune, must unavoidably suffer considerable privations. The custom, however, of the country, to admit of none but military rank, will always make the army the favourite profession of the young and the ambitious. Of the number of troops maintained at present by the emperor, it is difficult to speak with exactness; they were calculated to us, as amounting to 800,000, of which 600,000 were effective. But this is probably a great exaggeration, though it would

appear that even formerly the sum total of a Russian army was very formidable.

" The Russian," says Milton, " armeth not less in time " of war than three hundred thousand men." (Description of Moscovia.)

As connected with the army of Russia, it is impossible to omit speaking of the admirable condition of the different military hospitals throughout the empire. At Moscow, I visited that appropriated to the guards, in which were 283 patients. A young officer, who was on duty, attended us through the different wards, in which nothing could exceed the air of comfort, and state of cleanliness, every where visible. To such perfection was the system of ventilation carried, that we were solicited, nay, even obliged, to enter apartments, which are usually removed as far as possible from the eye of curiosity, to be convinced that purity pervaded every corner of the establishment. Attached to the hospital was a Russian vapour-bath, on the higher steps of which was a fellow in a state of perfect nudity, flagellating himself till he had attained the colour of a boiled lobster. In the kitchen of the hospital, we tasted of their soup, or *tchtchi*, made of cabbage, and beef, or pork, their quass and their black rye-bread, as well as of a sort of insipid jelly, obtained also from rye, and intended for those

who are very sick. The articles of food were perfectly good, and every attendant in the building was on the alert; for the emperor might surprise them in a moment, and be seen unexpectedly walking through the wards, or eating of the food prepared for the patients. In fact, his imperial majesty's guards appeared to be cured of fevers and catarrhs with as much attention to discipline and military precision, as if they were at the exercise of the ordinary drill. The same excellent regulations are observed in the other military hospitals of the empire, and reflect the highest credit on the zeal and activity of the emperor's physician, Sir James Wylie, by whom they have been introduced. It is after witnessing such sights as I have just described, which transport the mind at once into the midst of the most perfect institutions of civilized life, that the traveller is so forcibly struck with the strong contrast presented by the barbarity of the natives around him. The Russian noblemen, the military, as well as those who have civil appointments under the government, with some corresponding rank in the army, generally speak French, and adopt the dress of that nation; but all below this degree, which comprehends the great mass of the people, talk Slavonic, and wear beards. It is but fair, however, to confess, that I have heard that a few native merchants have occasionally been seen on the exchange at St. Petersburg, with abraded chins, and a loose hand-

kerchief round their necks, that looked something like a cravat. But it must not for a moment be imagined, that simplicity of character is at all connected with the gross ignorance of a Russian; on the contrary, in cunning he surpasses all people. The Greek of Athens, the Jew of Salonica, even the Armenian, so celebrated for his duplicity, must yield the palm of *finesse* to the bearded Muscovite. Devoid of original talent, but with powers of imitation, which have been noticed and extolled by all travellers, they are also sometimes possessed of habits of industry, that get the better of their disposition to drunkenness, and make their lot, when compared with that of the peasants of other countries, even enviable. In the neighbourhood of Moscow, for example, they can earn, by being employed during the winter in transporting different commodities, 2 roubles per day, and by the help of their wives and daughters, who are usually occupied in spinning at home, can easily make their yearly receipts amount to 600 roubles. The wheat of the province of Orel and the Ukraine is brought by the peasants in sledges during the severe frosts, and deposited in magazines at Twer and Vizney Volochof; from whence, in the spring, it is distributed, by means of the water communication, to Petersburg, and other parts of the empire. For it is from these countries, situated to the south, that the great supplies of grain are furnished, rye and

oats being the principal crops of the vicinity of Moscow *, the soil of which is too rich for the Russian method of ploughing, which consists in little more than scratching the surface of the earth.

Before dismissing the topic of the condition of the Russian subject, it may be observed, that with respect to religion, all sects are tolerated by the policy of the government, with the exception of those visionaries who are more peculiarly designated by the appellation of *Rascolnitz*. As their tenets are particularly hostile to the principle of population, of the energies of which the empire stands so much in need, every effort is made to put a stop to the fanaticism of these deluded wretches. But notwithstanding the severest enactments, a most melancholy instance occurred, during our stay at Moscow, of the effects of this insane and incredible bigotry, under the influence of which a father had performed a most cruel operation upon his infant son. The tender age of the child prevented the complete success of the experiment, and there was a probability of his ultimate recovery. As there is now no capital punishment allowed by the laws of Russia, the father was sen-

* The neighbourhood of Moscow consists principally of an argillaceous bed, containing numerous iridescent ammonites and other fossils, and resembling the London clay; of a bed of sand or sandstone, which probably corresponds with the Kentish rag, or green sand formation, and of an oolitic limestone, approaching to the character of Portland stone. Considerable blocks of granite are found loose on the surface of the soil.

tenced to be exiled to Siberia, for his literal and absurd interpretation of a verse in "The Revelations."

Such are the few observations which our short residence in Moscow gave us an opportunity of making, and which my entire ignorance of the language of the country necessarily renders, in many respects, extremely incomplete. But the Slavonian dialect spoken by the Russians is of very difficult attainment; and having no analogy with any of the commonly-spoken languages of civilized Europe, would certainly repay no one the trouble of acquiring it, who was not doomed to pass his life among the inhabitants of these northern regions. There are, however, two words which it is impossible a traveller should ever forget; *Karaschos* and *Cichass*. The first of these terms, which is constantly in the mouth of a Russian, signifies "very well;" and the latter, literally rendered by the French phrase, *tout à l'heure*, is generally used in the acceptation of one, two, three, four hours; in short, expresses any indefinite period. If the traveller, for instance, has reached the wooden hut of a postmaster, (unless he be fortunately provided with a courier's passport, when he is always quickly expedited), he receives in reply to his demand for horses, a promise that he shall have them *cichass*; after the lapse of half an hour he again makes the demand, and again hears the same consolatory answer, *cichass*. On these occasions, unless he will submit to be

kept for several hours at a wretched station, the doors of the stable, perhaps full of horses, will not fly open until he has greased the palm of the inexorably venal post-master. The rate of posting on the great roads leading to Petersburg is five copeks for each horse per verst, and on less-frequented routes only three copeks, but the bribe must sometimes amount to the exorbitant sum of a blue-paper note of the value of five roubles.

*Dec.* 16.—Having procured a *podoroshnaja*, or order for horses, we left Moscow in our *kibitkas* about eleven o'clock in the morning, with the weather comparatively mild, the thermometer indicating only a few degrees of cold. At the barrier, the subaltern who was on duty, on inspecting our passports, observed they were not in form, and that they must be sent back to be corrected; but this we discovered to be a pretext to extort the miserable bribe of a rouble, on paying which we were to be allowed to proceed. We refused, and ultimately gained our point. After five hours travelling over a distance of thirty-five versts, we reached Podol, an inconsiderable town, burnt during the campaign of the French, but now completely repaired. In a small room, warmed to an excessive degree of heat, were a number of peasants drinking tea, a beverage that we found to be substituted on this road for that of coffee, the usual luxury met with in the post-houses on the other side of Moscow. During this day's journey, we met several caravans of

sledges, laden with merchandise of every description, hemp, tallow, brandy, corn, *&c.* We travelled all night; but lest the motion of a sledge over the frozen surface should be conceived to be agreeable and calculated to promote sleep, it may be observed, that from the constant inequalities in the road, and the occasional deficiencies of snow, as well as sometimes from drifts and ridges over which we were to be dragged, the jolting was tremendous, and obliged us when we halted in the morning, thirty versts distant from Toula, to remove the windows of our *kibitkas.* These conveniences we had caused to be made at Moscow, hoping thus to be sheltered from the violence of the wind and sleet, without being doomed to darkness, but the sudden shocks we were every moment subject to, rendered it hazardous to have so brittle a substance as glass about us, and we were compelled to supply its place by a loose covering of mat, to hang in front of our vehicle.

Toula, the Sheffield or Birmingham of Russia, is well built, with wide streets and a thriving population. German mechanics, and a few English who have lately been induced by the promises of the Russian government to settle here, greatly contribute to increase the skill and activity of the manufactories of steel and fire arms, established since the days of Peter the Great. The articles, among which the chief are, bar-iron, bayonets, swords, and muskets, are fabricated from an iron ore, found in the neighbourhood. The country now became

more uneven and covered with less wood; in short, we were getting out of the dead flat, that forms the tract to the north of Moscow. There is not, in consequence, such waste and profusion of timber in the construction of the houses of the peasants; the sides of which, instead of being built of large trunks of trees, are of wicker work or wattled. The huts of the villages that range along each side of the road, are also more simple in their appearance than those we had seen on our journey from Petersburg to Moscow, and which are pretty uniformly of the following description:—They generally stand with their gable ends to the road, and before each is usually placed a well. Very neat carved work, ornaments their fronts, and the window shutters are for the most part painted with representations of flowers. From the stable at the back of the house a wooden staircase leads into a small room, containing a stove, heated by a fire that is burning in a confined hole behind, which serves the purpose of a kitchen. On the top of the stove, removed a few feet from the ceiling of the hut, the mother and children pass the greatest part of the day, and the *Mougik* sleeps at night. Before the image of the Virgin, painted on a board, and placed in a corner of the room, burns a small light, towards which every one on entering makes a profound obeisance by taking off his cap, and crossing himself devoutly three times, carefully recollecting to observe the Greek ceremonial of touching the right breast before the left. At Metzinsky, a large town

with numerous churches, and a considerable trade in tar, where we stopped on the 18th, we found all the shops shut in honour of the feast of St. Nicholas, the patron Saint of Russia. The expected arrival of Prince Kourakin, at the inn to which we drove, procured us a good dinner, consisting of a portion of what had been cooked for his Highness, though it deprived us of post horses. The Prince had ordered thirty-six, and we were consequently obliged to hire ours of the peasants.

Orel, the capital of the government of the same name, where we arrived at nine o'clock in the evening, is situated on the river Oka, which here becoming navigable, makes it a place of extensive commerce. Its exports are chiefly of wheat and flour; the first to Casan and Astrachan, the latter to Moscow and Petersburg. A difficulty of getting horses again impeded our progress, and we made only sixty versts in the course of this night.

On leaving Tchowardno, where we breakfasted on the 19th, we encountered a most violent storm of snow, that continued till our arrival at Sewsk. Proceeding slowly during the night, we awoke in the morning in Little Russia, and were agreeably surprised at the air of greater refinement and civilization observable in the appearance of the inhabitants. At Gloukhow, the postmaster was able to speak a few words of Latin, and

here also we met with a most excellent *Tractierer;* the name generally given to innkeepers throughout Russia. The walls and cieling of his house were formed of trunks of trees; but there was an excellent suite of extremely clean rooms, with shrubs in flower pots, and, what was of much more consequence, a very good sort of sparkling red wine, not unlike Champagne, from the Don.

For the last five days and nights, our sledging, though the motion was rude and jolting in the extreme, had been rapid, and retarded by no other obstacles, except the occasional difficulty of procuring horses; but as we approached the south, this method of travelling became every hour more annoying and impracticable. It rained during the night of the 21st, and we reached Borzna, floundering through mud and water. In the post-house, where we were detained a long time waiting for horses, we saw a Russian colonel in a similar predicament, who was going to Soudja, to judge, as he expressed it, an officer of the government, accused of having sold a public magazine of corn, and lost the money in gambling. Though the cold had been already as great as —20° R., it was only since the last three days, that they had seen snow here. This very unusual circumstance had nearly completely prevented our further progress, and it was with great difficulty, when we did ultimately

procure horses, that we were able to reach Niezin at eight o'clock in the evening. The road was full of deep quagmires, barely covered with a thin surface of ice, on which we were frequently obliged to walk with the greatest caution, leaving our *kibitkas* to plunge through them, as well as the skill of the *Mougik*, and the strength of the horses could contrive.

*Dec.* 22.—A considerable fall of snow during the night, which we passed at Niezin, enabled us to proceed somewhat more smoothly in the morning for the distance of a few versts; but we soon again had to contend with mud, water, and deep holes, from which we were extricated with great toil, and did not, in consequence, reach Kosoletz, till late in the evening. Through a deep forest of pine trees that extends hence to the banks of the Dnieper, we passed with great rapidity; and, in the morning, at five o'clock, entèred the cottage of a Malo-Russian, distinguished by an air of comfort, ease, and comparative opulence, far above the wretchedness of the huts where we had usually stopped, since our departure from Moscow. Nor is this superiority confined to their habitations alone, but distinguishes in a remarkable manner the inhabitants of Little Russia, who resemble Tartars in their appearance, and wear only mustachios instead of the bushy beard of the more northern boor. A little before mid-day, our *kibitkas* halted on the left bank of the Borysthenes in

the midst of at least 100 peasants, the accumulated crowd of the three or four preceding days. The thaw of the last twenty-four hours had broken up the thin crust of ice, with which the surface of the river had been previously covered, and rendered its passage again practicable.

The boat which was to ferry us across was seen on the other side of the river, slowly making towards us; and the prospect of our speedily reaching the wished-for shore was not very cheering, when we looked upon the numerous claimants around us, and, measured by the eye, the breadth of the stream, amounting to at least the third of a mile. The hopeless nature of the affair, and the exercise of patience which the peasants had already endured, seemed to have reconciled them to their situation; their horses were taken from their sledges, and they had formed a sort of temporary encampment. Men, women, and children, composed the crowd, habited in various dresses, of the most grotesque description, and calculated in different ways to resist the severity of the climate. Some of the peasants were clothed in wigs, with long pendent ears, not unlike the grave coiffure of a judge; others, again, had large brown serge cloaks, with cowls closely drawn over their faces like so many capuchins; while the girls, who wore long tails of their own hair plaited, had their heads enveloped in numerous folds of linen, in the manner of a turban. Huge gloves without fingers, enormously

heavy boots, and girdles round their waists, into which their whips were thrust and hanging from behind, completed the accoutrement of the men, whose appearance was rendered still more picturesque by the white and stiffened hair of their beards. At length the boat arrived, and, as the right of embarking seemed to be regulated more by the expected amount of remuneration than by any vague notions of priority of claim, we were lucky enough to be allowed to go on board. The vessel was not a large one, but they contrived to wedge three *kibitkas*, twelve horses, and as many men, into its small capacity. In the bustle of the moment, a Jew had managed to embark along with us, and had secreted himself behind one of the carriages; but he was detected in his hiding-place, and, for some reason or other, by no means apparent, was kicked out of the boat without the least ceremony. He made no resistance, and his tame acquiescence shewed that he either thought he deserved this usage, to which by habit he was probably accustomed, or that he dared not resent the ill-treatment. Perhaps, he had no business on this side the Dnieper, for though the Hebrew population of Kiew is considerable, there are very few Jews in Russia; and if they are generally served in this manner, they have a still stronger motive than the superior sagacity and cunning of the native Russ, to induce them to prefer a residence in Poland.

When this ejection was effected, and the party which had

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usurped the boat was left in quiet possession, we attempted to push off and quit the shore. But this was not the affair of a moment, for we were bound motionless, and fairly caught and entangled in the great masses of ice that had drifted down, and were accumulated on the margin of the river. Greeted by the shoutings of the discontented peasants on shore, the efforts of our boatmen, who, with long poles, endeavoured to push away the frozen impediments, (for which purpose they sometimes even ventured several yards on the surface of the loose ice,) were, for a long time, unavailing; but their strength and patience were ultimately successful, and we then got into tolerably clear water. We rowed up the middle of the stream for a considerable distance, constantly beset by large floating masses of ice, and landed under the high banks upon which the town of Kiew is built, amongst women employed in beating and treading linen with their half-frozen and livid bare feet, by the sides of holes made in the ice.

The sacred city of Kiew, the Mecca of the Russian empire, to which pilgrimages are made from a great distance by the devout followers of the Greek faith, stands on the south-west bank of the Dnieper, on a high ridge of sand, overlooking the immense woody flat that extends on the other side of the river, as far as the eye can reach. It was one of the earliest settlements of the *Slaves* in this country, and became in the ninth century, the capital

city of their government. It lost that rank in 1156, but the present town is still of enormous extent, abounds in churches, and has a diversified population, numbered at 30,000, and consisting of Jews, Poles, and Little Russians;—of these inhabitants, the latter, whatever virtues they may exhibit in the country, when employed in the labours of agriculture, are remarkable for their extreme laziness. They possess this vice in such a degree, as to allow all the ordinary mechanical arts to be exercised by *Mougiks* from Moscow and other parts, to the north of the empire. For a few months in the year, these more enterprising and industrious artisans are encouraged to travel to Kiew; from whence, after gaining a certain sum of money, they return to their native provinces. *Podol*, or the Low Town, is the chief resort of the Israelites; old Kiew is famous for its church of St. Sophia, the first Christian temple in the Russian empire; but *Pechask*, the third division of the city, is the best inhabited, and the most agreeable residence. In it are the palace of the emperor, and the beautiful public gardens, from whose walks is a most magnificent view of the windings of the Dnieper. It is, however, the monastery of St. Anthony, with its catacombs or galleries cut out of the sandy rock, and enclosed within the circuit of the fortress, which has rendered Kiew the object of peculiar veneration. In these subterranean passages are deposited the dried carcases of

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seventy-three good and saintly personages. To convince our guide, that, though schismatics, we had still some sort of fellow-feeling with the Greek worshippers,—we drank out of the hollow formed in the cross of one, and put on the cap of another of these desiccated monks, whose head was at our feet, while his body was buried up to the shoulders in the earth. But the season of the year was unfavourable to a curious inspection of these sacred places, and we hurried over them with a degree of haste, that their sanctity ought perhaps to have repressed.

In January, we were informed that the great annual *fête*, or Polish *Contract*, would take place, when Kiew was to become the scene of much gaiety and splendour. On these occasions, the nobles of the neighbouring provinces assemble, buy and sell estates, borrow money, make their purchases of various articles for the succeeding twelve months, and transact the business of the year. But the prospect of the bustle and pleasure that were to be united at this period, was not sufficient to restrain our desire to reach more southern climes, and quit the regions of frost and snow, sledges and fur pelisses.

During our stay of five days at Kiew, the ground had become covered with several inches of snow; but the extent of this seasonable fall was very uncertain, and we had felt so much annoyance from the rude sledging on the other side the Dnieper, that it was advisable to change our equipage.

Two Polish *bridgkas*, having their wheels fixed under the bodies of the carriages, were placed upon long wooden skates, and we set out on the 28th December, prepared for every change that might occur in the state of the road. Sledging was to be adopted as far as the snow would permit, and when that failed, we were to betake ourselves to our wheels.

Uneven country, forming descents, and elevations that might now and then be denominated hills, relieved us in some measure from the dull monotony of the vast flat over which we had been generally travelling from the city of Petersburg to the banks of the Dnieper. The road occasionally traversed small woods or copses of birch and fir trees, interspersed with stunted oaks, and brought us after a few hours to the little town of Wassilkow, where we halted to dine at the house of a Jewish *Tractierer*. Unlike the dirty inns kept by persons of the same nation, into whose hands we had fallen, and by whom we had been pilfered and badly treated on our entrance into Russia, from the Prussian frontier at Conyn to Warsaw, and from Warsaw to Riga, the house into which we now entered, was extremely clean and well furnished. These appearances proved, however, rather deceptive, for one of the chief dishes of our repast was a sort of acid soup they called *burst*, of which the ill-savoured taste combined with its ominous name, induced us to eat but sparingly. Our attention was caught by

the dress of our hostess, who wore on her head a curious cap, the distinguishing mark of a married woman, which was ornamented with a profusion of pearls. It is the bridal present made by the husband to his wife; and, being in some sort the external indication of the wealth of her lord, is displayed with no ordinary feelings of vanity. I have seen some that were estimated at 4,000 ducats; but this was at Brody on the confines of Gallicia, a Jewish free town, full of the most wealthy population.

Deceived by the darkness of the night, we learned in the morning of the 29th, when we stopped at the Hebrew *Tractierer's*, that instead of being on the road to Lipowitz, we had reached Bogouslaw, on the river Ross, and, as we had travelled too far to think of retracing our steps, it was resolved to continue in the present route; which, though rather circuitous, would ultimately bring us to Nov. Doubosari, the point we were making for, and the last frontier town of Russia.

But the time was now come when all further hopes of sledging were to be abandoned, and a series of disasters, from the continual breaking down of our crazy carriages, was to commence, of which a faithful recital would be as dull and tedious, as the delays we suffered from the constant and imperfect attempts at repairing them, were vexatious and annoying. It may be sufficient to say, that it was a miracle to complete a stage without an accident; and what made

the matter still more mortifying, the best and most shewy of our *bridgkas*, for which we had paid 600 roubles at Kiew, and purchased for our own use, was incomparably worse than the carriage of our domestics, whose original cost had been only 355 roubles. While the sledges were removed and our vehicles placed upon their wheels, we had a long conversation with our Jewish host, a shrewd and intelligent fellow, who seemed actuated by feelings of curiosity that distinguished him from most of his brethren, whose sordid views were chiefly directed to contrivances for feeding us ill and charging us exorbitantly. His anxiety to know the object of our journey was extreme, nor could he be persuaded that motives of pleasure were the only inducements to so long and comfortless an undertaking. He was, on his own part, very communicative, and desirous to answer all our inquiries; and I obtained from him the explanation of a practice among the Jews, which had often attracted my attention in the different villages and towns inhabited by that people. Attached to high poles, and extending in various directions across the streets, we had observed many cords, connecting, as it were, one house with another at a distance.

"As long," said our host, "as these strings are seen "stretched between the different poles, it is permitted to "have free intercourse with our neighbours; but when they "are taken down, on the sabbath, for instance, a Jew is "forbidden, in case he quits his own house, to carry any

" thing loose about his person; in his pocket must be found " neither snuff-box nor handkerchief."

The authority for this strange custom, he told me, was derived from the Talmud. To a question about the climate, he replied, that the present winter was unseasonably mild; and, consequently, prejudicial to their carrying trade from hence to Odessa, which forms the principal branch of their commerce. The severity of the winter is, however, occasionally very great, the thermometer indicating sometimes a degree of cold equal to —20° of Reaumur. The population of Bogouslaw is chiefly Jewish; and though the merchants are not so opulent as those of Brody, Cracow, and other towns in Poland, it is not rare to meet with individuals amongst them worth 10,000 ducats. They are not allowed to possess land, but buy the produce of the soil, chiefly wheat, from the proprietors, and carry it on sledges drawn by remarkably small oxen, to the ports of the Black Sea. We had had occasion in the former part of our journey to observe the effects of the spirit of commerce, when in the hands of this industrious people, in diffusing over the whole surface of Europe the luxuries of England. In the most miserable villages of Poland, between Warsaw and Riga, where frequently the only food to be obtained was a few eggs, we scarcely ever inquired for malt liquor, but they produced some excellent brown stout, or bottled London porter. For this delicious draught they made us pay, it is

true, a silver rouble. Here also at Bogouslaw, we saw some of the very best refined English sugar, at the price of 17 silver roubles per *poud*, equal to 40 pounds. There are large establishments at Moscow for the fabrication of this article, and the trade is contraband; but such is the superior quality of the British commodity, that the ukases of the government are defeated by the ingenuity and enterprise of the Jewish merchants.

The river *Ross* divides Bogouslaw into two unequal parts, and the eastern division, through which we drove when we left the town, exhibited a very ruinous appearance from the consequences of a late accidental fire, that had consumed many houses. On the banks and in the bed of the stream, large masses of granitic rock were to be seen in situ, affording us the only opportunity we had had for a long time of making a geological observation. The soil of the uneven tract we were now traversing with our wheeled carriages, was of a rich loam, and the farm-houses of the villages on the road, surrounded by immense stacks of wheat, announced our approach to the fertile corn districts, that form the granary of the Russian empire. Having fairly broken down a few versts before we reached Olchanla, we entered on foot that village late in the evening, and dislodged from the house of the Jew *Tractierer* three Russian priests, who were getting drunk with wine from the island of Santorini. The cellars of our hostess were well supplied with this beverage, which

she sold at two roubles the bottle; informing us, at the same time, that she procured it from Odessa, between which port and the islands of the Archipelago a great commerce was carried on in wine; the Greeks receiving in return corn, caviare, and iron.

The magistrate of Olchanla and the steward of M. Englehardt, to whom the village belonged, had the kindness, on our application to him for that purpose, to send six of the serfs of his employer, to labour all night at the repairs of our *bridgka*, and we were enabled early on the following day to recommence our journey.

*Dec.* 30. We performed the first stage without an accident; but the usual cause of delay, the want of horses, kept us some hours at the post-house, where we found an officer of hussars, detained in a similar manner. He told us, in German, that he was by birth a Servian, though now in the Russian service; and that he had been attached, for a long time, as an aide-de-camp to the famous George Petrovitch, usually known by the name of Zerni, or Black George. Of his former commander he spoke in terms of high commendation, as an active and enterprising partisan, who was adored by the army of rebel Servians, with which he had for ten years braved the whole force of the Turkish government. But as to his death, he candidly acknowledged, that, though it might be considered an assassination, and was, in fact, an act of revenge and private pique, on the part of the Hospodar

of Belgrade, who, having caused him to be seized in the dead of the night and decapitated, sent his head to Constantinople; yet, the suspicious circumstances under which Zerni George had clandestinely entered the Turkish territory, would have fully justified his execution as a traitor, by an express order from the Porte. It might be said, that at the time of his death, he had the rank of a lieutenant-general in the Russian service; but when he chose to pass the frontier, and secretly enter the country in which he had formerly stirred up so formidable a rebellion, he had forfeited all claim to protection as a foreigner, and had no right to expect from the justice of the Turks, which is generally of a very summary character, that in case of discovery his fate would be otherwise. The inhabitants of the village near Belgrade, where the murder took place, among whom were many of his former faithful followers, assembled in arms, dug up the trunk which had been buried, and continued for some time in a state of insubordination. It was not possible to ascertain from the officer who related these particulars to us, whether the Russian government considered itself insulted in the person of Zerni George, by this outrage; but we heard afterwards at Buchorest, that the Emperor Alexander disavowed him altogether. Our informant at the post-house, seemed to think, that the affair was still the subject of negotiation at Constantinople; and that among the demands of the Russians, on the score of reparation, was the singular one, that their

fleets should be allowed* to sail through the straits of the Dardanelles.

When we again set out, the face of the country assumed the appearance of a perfect steppe, or wild heath, entirely destitute of wood; but extremely productive, wherever it was cultivated by the population of the villages that were here and there to be met with on its surface.

*Dec.* 31. At Pestchanoi Brod, we breakfasted in the house of a Jew, that stood in the centre of about fifty small miserable white cottages, built of mud, and covered with thatch, but surrounded and literally hid by large stacks of wheat.

The wretched policy of raising a revenue from the vices, and at the expense of the health of the thoughtless serf, was but too obvious in the disgusting scene we had here an opportunity of witnessing. The rascally Jew pointed out to us, in a tone of exultation, several parties of peasants, who were swallowing his pernicious spirits in different corners of his hut. "A good customer," said he, "would drink "him one hundred roubles worth in the course of the "week." Now, as a tumbler (for the poison was sold in no less a measure,) cost only twenty copecks, about 4*d.*; the inordinate quantity that must be consumed to make up

* This is a permission which it is not very probable the Porte will be inclined to concede; and should it be attempted by force, the additional strong forts, lately constructed by the Turks near Sestos and Abydos, will greatly increase the danger and difficulty of the enterprise.

this amount is almost incredible. The serfs of this village belong to the Emperor, to whom they pay ten roubles only per annum; and in return for this trifling tax, are provided each with a house, and have as much of the steppe allowed them to till, as they are able or willing to cultivate. The corn they raise is carried to Odessa, from whence they return in a comparative state of wealth, besides possessing great herds of cattle, and indeed a superabundance of all the necessaries of life, with the exception only of fuel, for which, as the country around them is destitute of wood, they are obliged to employ dung and straw.

But the distilleries are in the hands of government, and the Jew is the agent by whom the baneful liquor is distributed to the imprudent serf, whose earnings thus revert to the coffers of the state. It would appear, however, that the mischievous policy has the sanction of long-established custom, as may be collected from the following remarks, to be found in the description of Moscovia, by Milton.

" The revenues of the emperour," says he, " are what he " list, and what his subjects are able to pay, and he omits " not the coarsest means to raise them: for in every good " town, there is a drunken tavern, called *Cursemay*, which " the emperour either lets out to farm, or bestows on some " duke or gentleman in reward of his service." (p. 314.)

Unable to resist the temptation, there are but few of the

peasants who are provident enough to hoard their wealth, though the fertility of the soil is so great, and they hold their farms on such easy and liberal terms, that one of them was shewn to us, who, notwithstanding his frequent visits to this den of iniquity, had contrived to amass a sum not less than 20,000 roubles. Upon the whole, Pestchanoi Brod* may be considered one of the fairest specimens of an agricultural village, in the richest corn district of Russia; and its peasantry, as belonging to the emperor, who treats his serfs with uniform liberality and kindness, enjoy, perhaps, as great a degree of comfort and independence, as is compatible with the present form of government. The only circumstances to be regretted in their condition are, the mischievous consequences that result from their own imprudence, and the narrow and misguided views of the department of the revenue.

During our stay at the *Tractierer's*, more than thirty fellows entered the house, and reeled out in a state of intoxication; but as a sort of contrast to this degrading picture, on looking out of the hut, around us, many of the men and women were busily engaged in more useful employments.

* The banks of the small river that flows near the village, are formed by low abrupt cliffs of granite, containing flesh-coloured feldspar, white quartz, and a very few particles of mica, but abounding in red garnets. Crossing the bed of the stream, are also large masses of the same rock, in some of the specimens of which the quartz is arranged in a manner similar to that observed in graphic granite.

Some were thrashing, and others treading out their corn, by rapidly driving horses in a circle, over the sheaves spread upon the ground.

Numerous barrows of no great elevation, and resembling, in their shapes, flattened cones, were to be seen on each side the road, as we crossed the Steppe, that brought us to the post-house of Lyfsaia Gora. The village was at the distance of two versts from the place where the relay was kept; but the hut of the post-master afforded no accommodations whatever for a traveller; and as our unlucky carriage again wanted the entire repair of a wheel, we were glad to be received into the house of a neighbouring peasant. This is the country of the *Ouman* Cossacks, to which tribe our host belonged; and his character was so civil and obliging, that we felt pleased with the accident that had brought us acquainted with his quiet and domestic life. Fuel was the only article which they did not possess in abundance, but the winters are not of long duration, nor is the cold very intense. On the top of a large stove, that occupied one side of the room into which we were admitted, sat his wife and three children, while the peasant made us a most excellent soup of chickens, thickened by a sort of small yellowish white seed.

The fire was maintained by constant supplies of reeds, stubble, and grass, procured from the adjoining Steppe. Our entertainment was in every respect most hospitable; and we

were told, that we should have been treated in the same manner by any other of the peasantry, into whose hut chance might have conducted us. They were all in similar circumstances of comfort, and had but one subject of discontent, which arose from a recent order of government. It appeared that the five regiments of Cossacks, furnished by the district, had hitherto performed their military duties at home, acting as a sort of militia, but they were now to be converted into Uhlans, and sent to serve in any distant part of the empire. At this innovation they were much inclined to murmur, and were not expected to yield to the change without the employment of some means of coercion.

Before day-light the family had washed themselves, and were praying in front of pictures of the Virgin, and various saints, arranged in a corner of the apartment in which we had all slept; and when our carriages were again in a state to proceed, we made a trifling acknowledgment to our host, and continued our route across the heath.

*Jan.* 1, 1818.—On taking our leave, and thanking him for our night's accommodation, we jocosely invited him to come to England, where we would endeavour to return his hospitality; at which he shook his head, and intimated that the journey was too distant; " but," said he, " you eat *my* " bread there." The great number of English vessels that take in cargoes of wheat every year at Odessa, where he travelled annually with his harvests of corn, naturally sug-

gested to him, that England must be, in a great measure, dependent on its imports from the Black Sea, for the most necessary article of subsistence *.

At Olwiopol, the most considerable town we had seen for some time, situated on the edge of the steppe, on the eastern bank of the Sinukha, we had a greater occasion for the exercise of our patience than on the ordinary trials occasioned by the usual accidents we had hitherto experienced. An entirely new circle of iron was to be made for one of our wheels, and the rude material, which we bought at the rate of fifteen roubles per *poud*, was to be forged into the requisite shape. Long as the process threatened to be, it was not to be set about immediately, for the carriage of another traveller was already in the hands of the blacksmith. Our companion in misfortune was the Russian vice-consul, on his road to Buchorest.

He had crossed the country from Moscow by a different route from that we had taken, and told of various disasters on his road; that he had been detained by half-frozen rivers in some places; by the want of snow sufficient for sledging in others; and by the ceaseless accidents of his unfortunate

* In the spring of 1818, the imports of grain from the Black sea into Marseilles, were, perhaps, great beyond any former precedent. The premium offered by the French government of six francs per *charge*, equal to about two-thirds of a quarter, was sufficient to pay the expenses of freight. But this bonus expired on the 15th of May, and it was then difficult to find a market for the great supplies of wheat in any of the ports of the Mediterranean.

carriage, whose miserable appearance confirmed any mishap he could possibly relate of it. In its most perfect state it could never have assumed a very respectable exterior; but in its present shattered condition, it wore a truly piteous aspect. There was not a single spoke of any of its four wheels, that was not supported and kept in its place by innumerable pegs, round which were bound cords in almost inextricable knots; in short, I think it is probable a consular personage has never before been seen to travel in so lamentable an equipage. He had already been some hours at Olwiopol, and complained bitterly of the tardiness of the mechanic, who was attempting to patch up his decayed vehicle, while we were compelled patiently to look on, till the skill of the smith had been nearly exhausted on his almost irreparable carriage. In the house of a Jew, to which we were conducted for refreshment, we obtained an omelette, and some indifferent Hungarian and Moldavian wine; and in the same room entered into conversation with a wounded Russian officer, whose story served, in some degree, to beguile the time that we were obliged to loiter away, while waiting for our *bridgka*. He had fought gallantly in the late campaign, and had distinguished himself so as to attract the notice of the emperor, who had rewarded his bravery, by according to him the pardon of his mother. This lady, who was by birth an Englishwoman, had, for some reason or other,

been, during several years, an exile in Siberia; and the happy son was now travelling towards the frontiers, to meet his parent. He was, as may easily be imagined, in high spirits on the occasion, and loud in his praises of the good, the generous, emperor, the *dobro* Alexander.

From the Jews we returned to the post-house, and found the consul on the point of starting. It was now past noon, and as it was not possible to repair our broken wheel, in less than five or six hours, there was no prospect of our being able to leave Olwiopol before night. As a parting word of advice, the consul endeavoured to dissuade us from such a determination; for his imagination, (as if not satisfied with the numerous little miseries to which the ordinary accidents of the road, and the infirm condition of his carriage, necessarily subjected him,) was haunted by the fear of bands of wolves; who, as he positively affirmed, prowled about the steppes, and were extremely dangerous to adventurers, who might traverse them in the dark. Olwiopol, like most of the towns we had passed through from Kiew, contains many Jews, but its chief population consists of peasants, employed in agriculture. The boundless steppe lies before them, and they are unrestrained in the spots they may choose to cultivate. Breaking up fresh land every year, their labour is comparatively trifling, as it is sufficient to scratch the surface of the earth, and having sowed the seed, the greater part of the rest of the year is

spent in indolence and drinking. At night-fall we crossed the river Sinukha, on a flying bridge; and, at the distance of five versts more, were ferried over the Boug. The road along the level steppe was in capital order, and having passed through many villages, the cottages of which were generally concealed from view by the countless corn stacks that surrounded them, we stopped at Balta on the following morning.

*Jan.* 2. Trees, chiefly willows and elms, were observable on each side of the road; the country began to lose the character of a steppe, the heat of the sun was so sensibly felt as to oblige us to lay aside our fur boots, and snow had here entirely disappeared. According to the information of our Hebrew host, the small river that divides the town of Balta into two parts, was the former frontier of Poland and Turkey; and on the hill, to the north-west of the stream, stands a chateau, that belonged to the family of Lubomirski. At the period that Otchakow was taken, Balta was also annexed to the Russian empire, in the reign of Catherine, by Count Romanzoff. It is a place of some trade, being frequented by Greeks, who give, in exchange for corn, (the great commodity of the country,) *bacaliau*, and the wine of the islands of the Archipelago. After another serious accident with our carriage, wretched fare, and grievous imposition at the post-house, we travelled till five o'clock in the morning, and then entered a German wine-

house at Nov. Doubosari, the last Russian town on the left bank of the Dniester.

In the government of Kherson, and the tract of country that extends hence towards Odessa, are many German settlements, of whose condition, we collected from our landlord the following particulars:—To remedy in some degree the deficiency of population, in this part of the Russian dominions, a bounty had been offered by the emperor, to encourage the spirit of emigration, that had manifested itself, particularly in the states of Austria. On his arrival in one of these newly colonized villages, each settler receives the sum of 355 roubles, granted him as a loan for the term of ten years, without the payment of any interest. In addition to this seasonable supply, he is allowed, for the space of three years more, pecuniary assistance, which, under the denomination of *Nahrungsgeld*, is destined for his subsistence.

As a check, however, upon the indolence, extravagance, or inconstancy, of any member of the new colony, who might be tempted to abuse the liberality of the government, the whole community is bound for the payment of the debt due from each individual. The state of the settlements was not asserted to be very flourishing; and notwithstanding the specious generosity of the emperor, most of the emigrants (if we were to give credit to the story of our informant,) were desirous of returning to their native country,

could they but once discharge the obligations they had voluntarily contracted.

But it appeared that the spirit of emigration had now greatly subsided, which was attributed partly to the tales of disappointment that had been transmitted home by those who had already suffered from the delusion; and partly to some prohibitory stipulations that were agreed upon at the late congress of Vienna.

Nov. Doubosari, though enjoying some privileges as a free commercial town, is but a miserable place, and suffers greatly from the want of a sufficient supply of fuel, which the inhabitants are obliged to bring from the other side of the Dniester. The freezing people fly for comfort to the government brandy, bought wholesale at the imperial *comptoirs*, at the rate of one rouble forty copecks per oke—a little more than a wine quart, and of which its weakness is its only good quality.

On the high sand-banks that form the eastern side of the river below the town, huts have been constructed for the accommodation of persons and merchandise coming from the south, and subject to the laws of quarantine; for though, since the peace of 1812, the dominion of Russia has been extended to the Pruth, a second or interior line of frontier is still marked out by the course of the Dniester.

Thus a traveller, entering Russia from the side of Moldavia, would have to perform two quarantines, the first

on the Pruth, the other at Nov. Doubosari. The length of these periods of penance and probation is regulated by the uncertain and usually inaccurate reports of the state of health at Constantinople; at the time we crossed the Dniester, it was only of three days' duration, but it had been during the previous month, without any sufficient reason, extended to the term of eighteen days.

There are two roads that lead from the steep banks to the edge of the river, the one (distinguished by the appellation of the *clean way*), conducts the traveller, whom business or curiosity may tempt to leave the healthy regions of Russia, into the country of pestilence; and the other is the path, by which those who are going to perform quarantine, ascend to the huts that serve the purpose of a lazaretto. The breadth of the Dniester is here about one hundred yards; it was partially frozen over, and our passage, in a boat, was consequently rather difficult. In a lofty enclosure of reeds, where we were left by the boatmen who had ferried us across, we awaited the return of a peasant whom we had found in the fields and despatched to the neighbouring village, at the distance of a verst, to order horses for our carriages; the decisive step had been taken, there was no return, without undergoing the necessary purification of a quarantine. One of our servants had already travelled in Moldavia, and spoke of the velocity with which the postillions of that country drive, in terms that made us look

with a fearful eye at the state of our unfortunate *bridgkas*. When they did at length arrive, the cord harness was spread and arranged upon the ground, and five horses being walked into it were attached to each vehicle, though two would have been amply sufficient. We now begged, with as much earnestness, and as little effect, that our *surugee* (the term by which a Moldavian driver is known in the country,) would proceed at an easy rate, as if we had been entreating a Saxon postillion, by the endearing appellation of **Schwager*, to mend his pace; but all in vain, for, as in the latter case, it avails little to storm or bribe, so here our conductor, (an uncommonly fine looking fellow, with a handkerchief folded round his head to imitate a turban,) could scarcely be prevailed upon to compound with us for a gentle canter. His ordinary speed, a full gallop, would have shattered our vehicles into a thousand pieces.

The rate of posting, and the method of calculating distances, were now changed ; the first, on comparison with the Russian tariff, was one-half cheaper, and the Turkish way of estimating by hours began to be adopted. For the ten horses, which they compelled us to take, we were to pay thirty-three roubles from the village on the Dniester to the town of Kichénau ; at the rate of five versts for every

* This word means "brother-in-law," and, since the time of the Emperor Joseph, is usually given to German postillions, particularly if the traveller happens to be in a good humour.

Moldavian hour the distance is called eight hours, but we performed it in less than half that time.

From this statement it will appear, that we paid nearly the same price as in Russia, *viz.*, about five copecks for each verst; but this was occasioned by our not being provided with Turkish money, which continues to be the current coin of this part of Moldavia. If the calculation be made in paras (twelve paras per hour for each horse), and with reference to the exchange at Constantinople during our stay in that capital, (thirty piasters for a pound sterling,) it will be found to amount only to one-half the rate of Russian posting. Night overtook us on a wild and barren heath, a few versts from Kichénau, where we had some difficulty in procuring lodging, notwithstanding its increased size and present consequence, having been raised by the Russians from a comparatively insignificant village to the rank of a government town.

*Jan.* 4. The following day was Sunday, and we felt transported into an entirely new scene, during our walk in the bazaar, which was the appellation given to the narrow street occupied by the principal shops of Kichénau. Low buildings covered with shingles, without windows, for which were substituted wooden shutters that were lifted up and suspended from the roofs; in short, the shabby houses of a Greek or Turkish town, were filled with commodities

of all descriptions. Under the projecting sheds were disposed honey, frankincense, pepper, seeds of all sorts, plums, oranges, sulphur, nitre, *&c.*; on the ground lay large blocks of rock-salt from the mines of Okna, in Wallachia, the price of which was 14 paras the oke; in another part were carp, sturgeon, and other kinds of frozen fish, from Bender. Amongst the curious assemblage of people, were observable, the Russian officer, passing rapidly in his light *droshka*; the fine robust Moldavian peasant, contrasted with the soldier of the emperor, with his Calmuk features; a few Turks of the lowest order; and many Armenians, who are here so numerous, as to occupy an entire street. Seated in the middle of the crowd, were money-changing Jews, having small tables placed before them, on which were spread Venetian sequins, Dutch ducats, *fonduchi*, *stambols*, and other specimens of Turkish gold, mingled with heavy copper Russian copeck pieces. The carriage of a smart beautiful young lady, the daughter of the Armenian bishop, was slowly moving through the narrow and wretched street; behind it stood a servant dressed in a splendid Albanian costume. Such were the singular objects that composed the picturesque group of the mean quarter of the bazaar; but other parts of the town were built in a better style, with streets more spacious, and handsome houses constructed of stone.

On the 6th of January, which, according to the Greek

calendar, is observed by the Russians as Christmas-day, the churches were filled, and the Moldavian boyars were exhibiting themselves in the streets in their most shewy equipages. For our own part, we were serenaded by a band of gipsies, tall, swarthy fellows, who accompanied, very discordantly, with their voices, five violins, upon which they played various plaintive Moldavian airs. As this extraordinary race of people forms a very considerable part of the population of Moldavia and Wallachia, and we had frequent opportunities of observing them afterwards, a slight notice of their present condition, and of the most plausible speculations that have been suggested by an examination of their language and peculiar customs, may not be entirely without interest. The Cynganis are stated to equal in number the native peasantry of Moldavia; and, it seems now pretty generally agreed, to consider them of Indian extraction. This opinion rests chiefly on similarity of language, and some analogies, perhaps rather fanciful, that are conceived to exist between the habits of the lower class of Hindûs and those of the wandering tribes of gipsies. Of the latter resemblances, the chief are a fondness for red dresses, the stone anvil used in their favourite occupation of blacksmiths, the voluptuous dances of their women, and their trade of fortune-telling: all of them customs and propensities, that are said to prevail equally among the Pariahs of Hindostan.

They first made their appearance in Germany in the year 1417, from whence they have spread over the whole continent of Europe; and are, in fact, to be found in every part of the world, with the exception of America. Slaves of the boyars, in Moldavia, under the degrading appellation of *Bojaresk*, they are not employed in cultivating the soil, but like some of the serfs in Russia, obtain permission from their masters, on paying an annual contribution, or *obroc*, to wander about the country, and exercise different mechanical arts. The amount of this yearly tax is 18 piastres for each chief of a family, and they travel in troops of 50 or 60 tents, carrying along with them all they possess, encamping, with their cattle feeding around them, and chiefly exercising the trade of tinkers. This is the mode of life of the greater proportion of the gipsies; but there is another class that is fixed in the towns, where they become carpenters, masons, tailors, shoemakers, and musicians. These latter, who have permanent residences, are said to speak only "*Walak*," like the natives of the country; but the others, who rove about, have a dialect peculiar to themselves; and it is from an attentive comparison of various words in this jargon with the language spoken by a people in Hindostan, that the chief argument has been drawn respecting their common origin. A rich Moldavian noble will possess some hundred gipsies, whom he con-

siders as so many cattle, obstinately refusing to sell them to a stranger, but occasionally effecting an exchange of a few individuals with a neighbouring boyar. The pilfering and roguish dispositions observable among them in England, characterize them also in Moldavia; but the horrid stories of their being cannibals, and fond of the flesh of children, whom they stole, for the purpose of afterwards devouring, and of which they were accused in Hungary, and, in consequence, executed in the reign of Maria Theresa, are idle and utterly without foundation.

An open and uncultivated tract on one side, with low hills occasionally covered with small copses on the other, brought us, after some mishaps, from the ungovernable speed of our postillions, to a hut at the second stage from Kichénau*.

There was not much to be said for the abode of the captain of the post, as he was called, the windows of which were of bladder; but he appeared civil, and offered to give up the half of a rude elevated wooden sofa that occupied two sides of his room. He had, besides, a plentiful supply of fire-wood, which, added to the state-

* The town of Kichénau is surrounded by low hills, having a small river flowing to the north-east, near the banks of which are the quarries that furnish the stone employed in building the town. It is a limestone rock, with much the appearance of French *burr*, or carious quartz, consisting of a congeries, of small bivalve, and convoluted shells. The strata are nearly horizontal, but dip a little to the west.

ment that the road beyond was very bad, full of ruts, and crossed by frequent small but dangerous bridges, and the stories of our Greek servant, of the robberies and murders committed by Servian and Albanian fugitives, who, having taken refuge in the adjoining woods, infest the country, determined us to await here the approach of the morning.

In the conversation that took place during the evening, between our interpreter and the post-master, the constant occurrence of corrupt Latin words, of which the few following may serve as a specimen, could not fail to attract our attention :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Limba, - - - | Lingua. |
| Puini, - - - | Panis. |
| Ferastra, - - - | Fenestra. |
| Cap, - - - - | Caput. |
| Apa, - - - | Aqua. |
| Homo, - - - | Homo. |
| Femea, - - - | Femina. |

The ordinary salutation, "Good day," is Buena deminaza, and the interrogatory constantly in their mouths, "where "is?" unde est?—To explain these striking analogies, it may be observed, that the inhabitants of Wallachia (and with reference to their language, that term embraces not only the province of that name, but also the adjoining principality of Moldavia,) consider themselves more pecu-

liarly than the people of any other country, the descendants of antient Roman colonists.

The great space of country extending from the banks of the Danube to the frontiers of European Sarmatia, and peopled by two associated nations under the appellations of Getæ and Daci, submitted to the arms of the empire, and formed the province distinguished by the name of the Dacia of Trajan. Its northern limit was marked out by the river Tyras, or Dniester; and the antient names of Jassiorum Municipium, Porata, or Poretus, evidently refer to the Pruth and the present capital of Moldavia. But the conquests of Trajan were yielded to the Goths and Vandals in the year 270, by the Emperor Aurelian, though many of the old Roman colonists remained behind, preserving traces of their native tongue, and still boasting of their Roman descent. In more modern times, that portion of Dacia, comprehended under the names of Temeswar and Transylvania, after many revolutions, has been annexed to the crown of Hungary; whilst, until very lately, the whole of the principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia acknowledged the supremacy of the Ottoman Porte.

The word, *Walak*, which is of Slavonic origin, and said to signify a nation of shepherds, is applied also to the dialect spoken by the natives of these two provinces, the one half of which is of Latin derivation, and the other a corrupt admixture of Greek, German, Turkish, and

Slavonian. It has * been attempted to be proved, that the antient Roman colony of this country was carried away by an irruption of Scythians, and forcibly transplanted beyond the Caspian sea, from whence they afterwards returned to occupy their primitive dwellings; but when it is considered that the various Asiatic hordes and barbarians of the north, who overcame the Roman empire in the fourth and fifth centuries, traversed this region, no further reason will be required to explain the confusion of tongues spoken by its inhabitants.

*Jan.* 7. High steep banks, clothed with oaks, elms, and plane trees, formed the sides of the road for some distance after we left the post-house; and the country, broken into hill and dale, was well cultivated, and abounding in wheat-stubbles; large herds of ashen grey-coloured oxen were grazing around, and the stacks of hay, with which the face of the tract before us was covered, were innumerable.

This and the neighbouring province of Bessarabia are celebrated for their rich pasturages; and immense droves of cattle are sent annually into the states of Austria, by Mohilef and Kamenetz, where they pay, on passing the frontier, a tax of seven roubles thirty copecks per head to the emperor.

* See Mémoire sur les Peuples qui habitent aujourd'hui la Dace de Trajan vol. 30. Des Mémoires de l'Académie des Inscriptions.

# CHAPTER II.

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RUSSIAN FRONTIER—JASSY, THE CAPITAL OF MOLDAVIA—BOYARS—GREEK FUNERAL—THE HOSPODAR—HIS LITERARY PRESENT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD—COURT OF JASSY—MOLDAVIAN POST—QUIT JASSY—TOWN OF FOKSCHANI ON THE WALLACHIAN FRONTIER—BUCHOREST—THE WAIVODE OF WALLACHIA—OPPRESSED CONDITION OF THE PEASANTRY—CLUB OF BUCHOREST—HABITATIONS OF THE WALLACHIANS—THE DANUBE—CONFINES OF TURKEY.

# CHAPTER II.

THE last eagle is planted on the left bank of the Pruth, on the memorable spot where Peter the Great was saved from imminent danger by the bold and decisive character of the Livonian peasant, Catherine, whom he had just raised to the dignity of Empress of Russia. Elated by the success of the famous battle of Pultawa, the Czar had penetrated into the interior of Moldavia, when his army extenuated by famine and disease, was suddenly surrounded by the troops of the Grand Vizier, and threatened with complete extermination. At this critical juncture the courage and presence of mind of the empress, brought about a negotiation, that secured the personal safety of the Czar and the unmolested retreat of his army. But the terms of the peace were extremely harsh and degrading, being no less than an engagement to demolish the lately-erected fortresses on the Palus Mæotis, and to renew the disgraceful yearly tribute of 40,000 sequins to the Tartars, from which Peter had recently exonerated his subjects. The scene of this humiliating treaty is now the temporary limit of the acquisitions of the gigantic empire of Russia, and here

we were to produce our passports, and quit the territory of Alexander.

We found the Russian colonel, who had the command of this station, engaged with his officers, and a party of ladies in the festivities of Christmas, of which, after the formalities of introduction, and inspection of our passports, we were politely invited to partake. Dinner was over, coffee and rum were therefore produced, and we were strongly urged to join in the dance; but excusing ourselves under the pretext of important business, and the necessity of crossing the river, and reaching Jassy before dark, we were allowed to depart. This permission, however, was not to be obtained without our being obliged previously to endure the honours of a Russian embrace, rendered, by our host's state of hilarity, much more cordial than agreeable. The Pruth, which is here about thirty yards broad, was frozen over; the demands of our postillions were to be satisfied before they would proceed; our carriages were then driven across, the horses in a moment taken from them, and hastily conducted back by our guides, who were eager to escape the contamination of the plague. We were received by the officers of the Prince of Moldavia, on a small sandy plain near a village; six piastres were demanded of us for the passage of the river, for though the ferry-boat by which it is crossed in the summer, was now of no use, the fee was still exacted;

and we gave besides, a douceur of three piastres to the custom-house officers of the Hospodar. The village was crowded with Greeks and Jews, who were carousing in the coffee-houses, and Moldavian peasantry, who were most of them sitting, and gambling on the ground. The streets were encumbered with casks of wine, carts, oxen, and horses.

Looking back to the Russian side of the Pruth, we saw the wooden huts constructed for the purposes of quarantine, now fixed at eighteen days' duration, and on the surface of the ice, various groups of figures stationed near the middle of the river; these were the persons from the Lazaretto, who were permitted to converse with their friends from the Moldavian side, at the distance of a small interval, which Russian sentinels were appointed to see rigidly observed. On the Turkish frontier there was no appearance whatever of any military authority; but we were shewn to the house of the secretary for passports, in whose polite and easy manners, it was easy to recognise the souple and intriguing Greek of Constantinople. He regaled us with coffee, pipes, and wine; in return for which it was not difficult to induce him to accept four piastres as a remuneration. The drive from the banks of the Pruth to Jassy is called three hours; it is over a very hilly country, covered with wood, amongst which, here and there were observable the country houses of the Moldavian boyars. The evening

was rendered extremely fine by a brilliant sun-set, and we entered the capital just as it became dark, passing through a long street, formed by large brick houses, built at the north entrance of the town. As there is no inn at Jassy, we drove to the house of the English vice-consul; and in his absence, were very civilly received by his dragoman, a young Greek from the island of Corfou. In the desultory conversation that passed during supper, we collected some general notions of the state and political condition of the country into which we had now entered.

During the period of six years that the Russians occupied this portion of the Ottoman empire, the head-quarters of the army were at Buchorest; a senator, or civil governor, being stationed at Jassy. At the peace of 1812, they retreated beyond the Pruth, retaining possession of the most fertile half of Moldavia, lying to the east of the river. But if their troops no longer occupy the territory, the Russians are still said to exercise considerable influence over the internal policy of both the tributary states of Moldavia and Wallachia. In favour of the Christian subjects of the Porte, they stipulated at the peace, that, whereas formerly their princes were frequently removed, (giving rise to great and vexatious impositions on each new appointment), every Hospodar should, in future, be continued in his authority for the space of seven years. On the occasion also of any very grievous contributions

levied by the prince upon the people, the inhabitants look to the Russian consul for redress, and, through the means of the ambassador of that nation at Constantinople, for remonstrance with the ministers of the Grand Seignior.

Feelings of justice, and the sympathy arising from a similarity of religion, are pleaded as the motives of an interference, that admits, perhaps, of a more ready and obvious solution, from considerations of a less disinterested nature.

The boyars, or nobles, of Moldavia, were represented as living generally in very affluent circumstances, some of them even as possessed of an annual income of 30,000 ducats. They pass most of their time in the city, and spend the greatest part of their money in gambling. The country is now free from the plague, which committed dreadful havoc among its inhabitants, immediately after the termination of the late war, in 1812. Perhaps, this recent instance has made so great an impression on their minds, that the Moldavians have drawn a general conclusion from an insulated fact; but they all persist in declaring that Turkey in Europe is destined to suffer continually from one of the two most destructive scourges with which humanity is afflicted, war or pestilence. When the one ceases, the other makes its appearance; but they have been rarely, if ever, known to exist together, at one and the same time.

We were awakened in the morning by the loud and continued ringing of bells, accompanied by a peculiar deafening clatter, that, on inquiry, proved to be occasioned by the rapid striking of two sticks upon a board, loosely suspended in the belfry of the neighbouring church. The followers of the Greek religion, in this part of the Turkish empire, avail themselves to the utmost of the toleration they enjoy; and perform their religious ceremonies with a clamour, which, however exhilarating it may be to themselves, makes the less zealous stranger regret the absence of restrictions imposed elsewhere by their Turkish masters*.

As in Russia, so also at Jassy, the Greek churches have uniformly the cross erected over the crescent on the top of the domes, which form the ordinary terminations of their towers. This circumstance led me to call in question the accuracy of the usually received account, regarding the origin of this peculiar ornament, which is as follows:—

* At Constantinople the Greeks are not allowed the privilege of bells, which must be a considerable privation, to judge from the importance attached to the use and weight of them in Russia, where all the ceremonies of the Greek faith, the established religion of the country, are performed with the greatest pomp and magnificence. * It would appear, that the taste for bells of enormous dimensions continues still to prevail there, as I have heard, that, during the last summer, several months after we quitted Moscow, one has been cast, weighing 4,100 *pouds*, equal to about 66 tons, surpassing, therefore, all other bells in the world, with the exception of that which lies in the Kremlin, buried in the earth, at the foot of the tower of the ' Great John.'

When the Tartars conquered Russia, they profaned the temples of the Christians, by fixing the crescent upon their summits, which the great Czar Ivan Vasilovitch, who afterwards vanquished the invaders, and drove them out of the country, did not take down; but contented himself with elevating the cross above the symbol of Mahomet, in token of victory. But if such a story were correct, the Christian subjects of the Porte would scarcely venture to brave their Mahometan tyrants, by the display of so insulting a trophy.

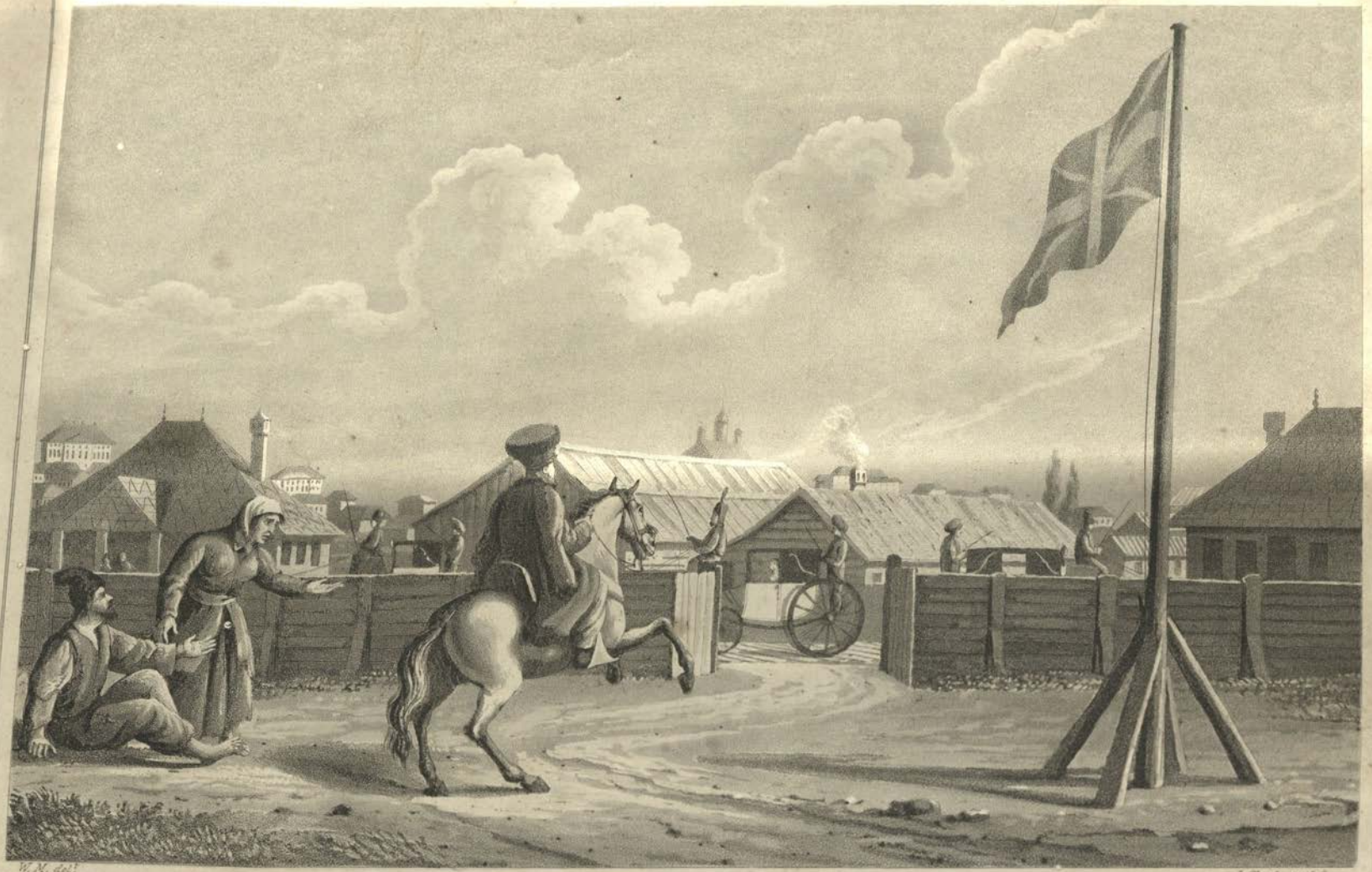
Among the numerous Greek churches at Jassy, our attention was particularly attracted by the very antient one dedicated to their three saints, George, Basil, and John. The whole of its exterior is covered with stucco, moulded into the most curious and intricate forms, not unlike the irregular patterns sometimes seen on paper or carpets. Tradition reports, that all this highly-ornamented surface was formerly coated with gold, of which it was despoiled at the time of an inroad of the Tartars, by the conquerors making a fire round the church, and melting its superb gilding.

The capital of Moldavia is situated on the declivity of a hill; to the west and north-west is a marshy flat, through which runs a small river, that in spring overflows, and inundates the whole plain. To the south of the town the mountains are high; the plain above

mentioned is bounded on the west by a small hill, on whose sides are vineyards; on the summit stands a monastery*. The city itself consists of a mixture of low miserable huts, covered with shingles, and of spacious houses, built of brick, and whitened with plaster. These latter were most of them erected during the occupation of the country by the Russians. The streets are laid with flat planks of wood, constantly decaying, and seldom repaired. On walking out, the first, and most striking object that meets the eye of a stranger, is the enormous balloon-shaped Moldavian cap, or calpak, of an appearance so unwieldy, as to seem ready to annihilate the person who has the courage to move under such an oppressive burden. They are, however, not quite so formidable, being in reality very light, made of pasteboard, and covered with grey fur, which, I believe, is generally lamb-skin from the Crimea.

The boyars, dressed in loosely-flowing robes, some with beards, and others wearing only mustachios, are seen in the streets, walking, or riding *à la Turc*, with Tartar saddles and stirrups; or, perhaps, more frequently indolently lolling, and looking very forlorn, in shabby calèches built at Vienna. These vehicles are driven by coachmen, dressed in the uniform of hussars; behind them are mounted

* In the neighbourhood are quarries of yellow sand-stone, and white shelly limestone.




PUBLIC PROMENADE of JASSY, from the VICE CONSUL's COURT.

footmen, accoutred after the oriental manner, with turbans on their heads, pistols, and ataghans in the sash round their waists, and usually carrying in their hands the long amber-mouthed Turkish pipes of their masters. The combination of Oriental and European manners and costume is irresistibly ludicrous. The boyar looks like a grave Mahometan; but speak to him, and instead of the pompous and magnificent sounds of the Turkish idiom, he will address you in tolerable French, and talk of novels, faro, and whist. In the afternoon, between four and five o'clock, is the grand promenade, when a long string of calèches is to be seen moving in solemn procession along the jolting streets of Jassy. The carriages are drawn by two horses, generally covered with large shaggy blue housings, and harnessed so wide a part, as nearly to occupy the whole breadth of the street. Mingled with the solemn figures above described, are occasionally to be seen the wives and daughters of the boyars in close chariots, enjoying this their only public amusement. When the promenade is over, the Moldavian noble retires to whist or faro, where he will lose at a sitting 500 ducats. So much addicted are they to gambling, and so lax are their notions of public morals, that the officer who has the title of Aga, and the duties of minister of police, in the city of Jassy, is frequently to be seen holding the bank at Faro. The place swarms in consequence with adventurers, one of the most celebrated

of whom was pointed out to us, in the person of a Polish Knight of Industry, whose whole fortune, on his arrival, consisted of a ring of small value. Upon this he had raised an inconsiderable sum, and, by a constant series of good luck, had amassed a large property, and was now to be seen every day in one of the most splendid equipages. But if the boyars have adopted the vices of civilized Europe, they have made little or no progress in the improvements of polished society. They are extremely illiterate, their only attainment appearing to be a little facility in speaking French, which gives employment to a few refugees of that nation, who are established here, and live by giving lessons in that language. We met also with some Germans, amongst others with two Hanoverian doctors, and two or three Greeks from the island of Candia; the occupation of the latter was that of teaching modern Greek, the language spoken at the court of the Hospodar. One of these Candiotes had a press at Jassy, employed entirely in printing Greek prayer-books; but it appeared that his trade was not very thriving, as he spoke to us of the strong desire he had to revisit his native island. In Candia, he said, if he could be so fortunate as to return there, in the suite of some rich English traveller, he was certain he could point out some curious remains of antiquity, and purchase, at an easy rate, many valuable manuscripts.[2] It was curious to find assembled in this small city, people from such various

parts of the world; but the most interesting object remains still to be described in the person and court of the Hospodar of Moldavia. As travellers in Greece, we had been accustomed to see the descendants of the illustrious heroes of antiquity, basely submitting to the grossest insults from the meanest Turks, without daring to lift the degraded hand of a *rajah* against the Mahometan despot; the spectacle, therefore, of a Greek, exercising the rights of sovereignty, could not but greatly excite our curiosity. Our presentation at the court of the Hospodar was delayed for a short time by the death of his grand-daughter, an event that took place the day after our arrival. She was the child of a favourite daughter, and his Highness was reported to be greatly afflicted at her loss; though the melancholy event did not plunge the court into grief, or mourning of any very long duration, as it was intimated to us, that in two days we should have our audience. Death is speedily followed by the rites of burial in this country, and on the following morning the streets of Jassy were crowded, to witness the splendour of the funeral procession. A great number of Greek priests, holding lighted tapers in their hands, preceded the body, exposed in an open coffin, lined with green silk, and lying with its face uncovered; behind, followed the Albanian guards of the prince, dressed in their most gaudy attire; in the rear were a few wretched calèches, some empty, and others carrying the maids of

honour, I presume, of the princess. The crowd was great, and we made an ineffectual effort to enter the church along with the procession*.

In the evening of the same day, we went to see the mustering of the guard, in the court of the house of the Hetman, or commander-in-chief, for such was his high-sounding title. Imagine, the mean yard of a second-rate inn, in the centre of which were to be seen, by the glare of a fire burning on the ground, half a dozen turbaned figures, one with an ataghan, another with a pistol, and possessing in all three muskets among them. They stood with folded arms, and a most assassin-like air; nearer the gate, at various intervals, and forming two rows, were visible twenty half-clothed wretches, without sandals, stockings,

* I was present, for the first time, at a Greek funeral, in the spring of the year 1812, at Livadia (antiently Lebadea, in Bœotia), where we were detained for several days by the arrival of a Pasha going from Constantinople to his government in the island of Egripo; and I copy from my journal, the following observations made on that occasion:—

"*April* 2. Loud shrieks and lamentations, which continued for five minutes, "were heard in a house adjoining the one we occupied; and, on inquiry, I found "that some one had just expired; three hours afterwards I attended the funeral; "the body was placed on a bier in the middle of the church, with lighted tapers "arranged around it; every one present held also a taper, and when the mass "was concluded, most of the persons in the church advanced and kissed the "face of the corpse. The grave was only two feet deep, into which, when "the body was deposited, one of the assistant priests threw a little earth, and "afterwards the ashes of the censer; the corpse was wrapped in linen cloth, "and the head was supported by a pillow filled with earth. After the ceremony, "bread, wine, and olives, were distributed among the persons present."

and some even without other more essential parts of dress. Along this line moved slowly the band of his Excellency the Hetman, consisting of a drum and fife; and when it had reached the extremity and returned to the fire, the ceremony was concluded, and the guards filed off to their respective posts. They were to watch all night, near the gates and on the outskirts of the town, to prevent, or, what they appeared much more fit for, to commit murders and robberies.

*Monday, Jan.* 12, was the day fixed for our visit to the Hospodar; and we were to be gratified, at the same time, by the sight of the most regal of all the ceremonies of the court of Jassy. The nomination of the high officers of the government was to take place in the audience-room of the palace.

Accompanied by the dragoman of the vice consul, who was the only person here in the character of a British agent, we drove in an open calèche, about nine o'clock in the morning, to the palace. It is a considerable brick edifice, and notwithstanding its air of dilapidation from the stucco having fallen off in various places, wears upon the whole rather an imposing appearance; it looks, in short, like a public residence, and the arms * of the province are fixed over the chief entrance.

* They consist of the head of an ox, over which are a star and a crown, and on each side, the representations of the sun and moon; of these devices the

The carriages of those who had arrived before us, together with several horses richly caparisoned, and destined to carry off the official characters who were about to be nominated, were waiting in the court. On alighting we were received by a person bearing a staff, and dressed after a grotesque fashion, who proved, by his antics and grimaces, to be the court jester or buffoon. He took charge of our pelisses, and danced before us into the grand audience-room. Moldavian boyars with huge calpaks, the Russian and Austrian consuls in their respective uniforms, Albanian and Servian soldiers, the *chibouque gee*, *coffee gee*, and other domestic officers of the Hospodar, were lounging about a spacious hall, which the delay of the prince's arrival gave us leisure minutely to examine. Near the throne, which was an elevated chair placed against one of the walls, were suspended a bow and quiver, and along the sides of the apartment were figured the arms of the twenty-two different districts into which Moldavia is divided; they were painted in fresco in so many circular compartments, and exhibited the characteristic products of the several provinces. In one, for instance, was a representation of the vine; in another, of different species of fish; in a third, of various sorts of game. The number was complete;

most prominent is the bull's head; and as the Moldavians are proverbially stupid, their neighbours apply to them a term of reproach, derived from it, calling a native of that province, "Cap di bov."

the whole of Moldavia was depicted upon the wall, though the Russians are in possession of the most fertile half of the country.

At length a buzz, in the passages leading to the audience chamber, announced the approach of the Prince. He came, supported by the Grand Postelnik, and another of his chief officers. He was about forty years of age, wore a beard, and seemed still to labour under the effects of his recent loss; he appeared otherwise in bad health, and had an expression of great anxiety in his countenance; when seated on his throne he made a speech in Greek, announcing the business upon which he was about to proceed, and dwelling on the responsibility of the high official situations to which he was going to elect, (of course), the most worthy of the Moldavian boyars, who surrounded him. A Greek from Constantinople, with the title of Grand Postelnik, who is his prime minister, stood on the left of the throne. On a sudden, a boyar advanced from the crowd, and being clothed in a caftan (a yellowish-brown robe), ascended the steps of the throne, and received from the Hospodar, the staff appropriated to the office to which he was nominated. He kissed the hand and the garment of the Prince; and, having retreated a few paces, bowed, and commenced a long speech in modern Greek, praising the wise administration of his Highness, and promising an equitable exercise of the authority now

delegated to him. When he had concluded, the Grand Postelnik led the way through the crowd, to the outer gate of the palace, where a crier announced to the populace assembled in the court, the style and title of the newly-created magistrate. In this way we saw seven boyars advanced to the following offices; they are the chief appointments under the Prince, all greatly coveted by the Moldavian nobility; all of them purchased; and, I dare say, have all the same general character of impartial and efficient administration*.

*Chief Judges of Moldavia, who have the privilege of wearing the Beard* †.

Grand Logotheti de Tzara de Dzosse, that is, of the lower, or southern, division of Moldavia.

Grand Logotheti de Tzara de Sousse, of the upper, or northern, division.

2 Vorniks de Tzara de Dzosse.

2 Vorniks de Tzara de Sousse.

* We were told, the Grand Postelnik had probably received that morning for the different places ostensibly given away, the sum of 100,000 piastres.

† On the other side of the Pruth, distant only a few hours, the beard is the characteristic appendage of the serf and ignoble Russian; but here, matters are changed, and none have the right to exhibit a beard, but those who, in addition to their claims of nobility, actually exercise, or have exercised, the great dignities of the state.

Vornik d'Opstia, or Judge of Civil Affairs, and Grand Almoner.

The foregoing, together with the Grand Postelnik, have the privilege of possessing eighty peasants, or Scotelniks, free from tribute.

The minor officers of the government have the following uncouth appellations, the privilege of possessing forty Scotelniks, and the right of beard.

Vornik des Approds—a sort of sheriff.

Aga—master of police for the city of Jassy.

Spathar—bearer of the arms of the Prince, and general minister of police.

Hetman—commander-in-chief.

Bano—member of the Divan.

The Hospodar himself has the rank of a Pasha of three tails, must have filled the important office of Dragoman of the Porte at Constantinople; and, in addition to his mother-tongue, be able to speak Turkish, French, and Italian. The grandfather of the reigning Prince, whose name is Σκαρλατος Αλεξανδρε Καλλιμαχης, was a Moldavian peasant, who, by his talent for acquiring languages, raised himself to the post of Dragoman of the Porte, and afterwards to the enviable rank of Hospodar. In these appointments he has been succeeded by his son and grandson, possessed alike of the same talents for intrigue and fluency of speech.

In addressing the Hospodar, the title of Highness is

usually given him by strangers; but his correct style is, "Waivode Effendi, and Duke of all Moldavia," as we learned from the following authority.

On our arrival at Buchorest, we saw in the possession of the former British Consul-General, Mr. Wilkinson, an elegantly bound book, intended as a literary present from the Hospodar of Moldavia, to the University of Oxford. It was the political code of the principality, compiled by the Prince, and printed at Jassy; the language was modern Greek, and it was accompanied by a letter, highly flattering, as I was told, to that celebrated University, written in the purest Hellenic of the Fanal*, by the hand of the Hospodar himself. The superscription of the letter was in Latin, and as follows:—

Magn: Brit: Celeb: Universitatis: Oxon:
Magnifico Rectori.
Oxonium.

The title of the book was,

Κωδιξ Πολιτικος
τς Πριγκιπατς της Μολδαβιης
εν Ιασιι.

and the style of the princely author, whose portrait appeared as the frontispiece, ran thus:—

Βοεβοδας Αυθεντης και
Ηγεμων πασης Μολδαβιης.

* Greek quarter in Constantinople.

When the public ceremony was over, the Hospodar retired, supported under the shoulders, in the same manner as on his first entry; and in a short time we were admitted to an audience, and formally presented. The interview was strictly Turkish; we sat on sofas, and had coffee, sweetmeats, and pipes presented to us. The only difference observable between this and an ordinary Turkish visit, consisted in our being able to carry on our conversation in French immediately with the Pasha, instead of being obliged to avail ourselves of the assistance of a dragoman. The dialogue also was a little more interesting; for the questions of a Turk are usually so trivial and unmeaning, that, at the end of the ceremony, it is difficult to recollect the topics of conversation. But the Hospodar had heard of the death of the Princess of England, affected to lament it; and, as we came from Russia, made many inquiries concerning the residence of the Imperial Court at Moscow, the state of the army, and the probable object of the Emperor in maintaining so great a number of troops: questions, some of them rather delicate, and not admitting of a very easy reply.

At the close of our audience, his Highness being informed of our route, desired his secretary to make out a gratuitous order for horses from Jassy to the frontiers of Moldavia. We thanked him for his politeness, bowed, and retired.

It was at Jassy that the curious dialogue took place between the exiled King of Poland and the Hospodar of

Moldavia, of which Voltaire gives an account; and which, though a well-known story, deserves, perhaps, for the neatness of the repartee, to be recalled to the memory of the reader.

When the generous but unfortunate Stanislaus set out for Bender, in search of Charles XII., with the view of inducing him to consent to his own abdication of the throne of Poland, (at that time the chief obstacle to the general pacification of Europe), he travelled incognito, and after encountering various dangers, at length reached the frontiers of Moldavia; through a country tributary to the Grand Seignior, who had protected, for so long a time, and treated with such noble hospitality, his gallant but enthusiastic ally, the King of Sweden, Stanislaus expected to be allowed to proceed without interruption. But the caprice of Charles had exhausted the patience of the Turks; they had adopted less friendly sentiments towards him, and had resolved to get rid, at any rate, of such a troublesome inmate. In consequence of this determination, the Hospodar had received instructions concerning the person and secret journey of the King of Poland, so that when Stanislaus entered Jassy, under the name of Major Haran, a Frenchman who had been long in the Swedish service, he was arrested, and brought into the presence of the Prince; the conversation between these personages was carried on in Latin, and when the stranger (being interrogated as to the rank he held in the Swedish army,) replied, "Major Sum;" the Hospodar rose up, and respect-

fully saluting the King, said, " Imo maximus es." He was then detained as a prisoner in a convent at Jassy, until orders could be received from the Pasha of Bender, relative to his further treatment.

The present Hospodar is said to be extremely laborious in the discharge of his public duties, and to write his despatches, with his own hand, to the Grand Vizier at Constantinople. In his private life he affects the Oriental manners, and lives in apartments separated from those of the Princess, his wife, who occupies a wing of the palace, that has the Turkish appellation, harem. But, if the dignity of Hospodar has many charms to allure the ambitious Greek, its tenure is very uncertain, and it is a station surrounded by perils of no ordinary magnitude. It may, perhaps, be said, to be less so now, in consequence of the stipulations of the last treaty of peace with the Russians; but, among the Turks *, promises and oaths are but feeble guarantees against the suggestions of

* This anticipation has been fully justified by the recent conduct of the Hospodar of Wallachia, whose sudden escape into the Austrian dominions has been publicly announced in the following manner :—

" *Constantinople*, Oct. 26, 1818.

" The Porte has received the following information respecting the flight of the Hospodar of Wallachia; he was accompanied by his wives, his son, his two sons-in-law, Argizopulo and Blakuzky, and the Boyar, Manto Cordata. He seems to have been long preparing for his flight, having remitted large sums within some months, by bills of exchange, to Switzerland, England, and Russia. The Porte has amicably notified to the Russian ambassador, the flight of the

interest or caprice. The usual termination of the short-lived dignity of an Hospodar is as sudden as it is treacherous. If he has failed in remitting to the treasury of the Grand Seignior, the expected sums of money extorted from his oppressed subjects; is suspected of intriguing with a neighbouring nation, or has been out-bid at Constantinople by a more wealthy Greek ambitious of becoming his successor, his removal from the throne, and the termination of his life, are secretly resolved upon. The confidential missions of the Porte, are intrusted to the officers, called *Capigi Bashi*, or chamberlains; nor is there any thing uncommon in the arrival of one of these emissaries at the court of a distant Pasha; where, as a Turk of consequence, and the bearer of an official communication from the seat of government, he is treated with great respect, and admitted to an early audience of the Hospodar. But the matter is highly delicate; the numerous attendants by whom a Pasha is surrounded must be dismissed; the *Capigi Bashi* has business of the greatest importance to communicate; in short, he must speak in secret. If the Hospodar has received, from his friends at Constantinople, any intimation of the intended plot, he resolutely refuses to dismiss his guard, and calls on the Turk to declare his

Hospodar, and represented to him the necessity of filling up again the vacant office. Baron Strogonoff agrees with the Porte; but has observed, that, till the expiration of the seven years stipulated by treaty, the place of the Hospodar can only be filled *ad interim* by a Caimacan."

MOLDAVIAN POST.

mission openly; but if, unhappily uninformed of the snare, he desire his attendants to withdraw, the *Capigi Bashi* seizes the opportunity, the blow is struck, and the head of the unwary prince rolls at the feet of the executioner. The fehrman of the Porte is now instantly displayed, to protect the *Capigi Bashi* from the sudden fury of the guards, who bow to the sacred authority of the successor of Mahomet. Such, however, seems to be the innate love of duplicity and treachery amongst the Turks, that the order must not be produced till the deed is done. An emissary who should fail in this respect, would fall a victim to his imprudence; and his own head be sent to Constantinople, as a proof of his want of skill, and a punishment for his indiscretion.

We left Jassy in the afternoon of the day of our audience, and were now to change, for the fourth time, our travelling equipage. So much snow fell on the day of our arrival at Petersburgh, that, had we been a few hours later, it would have been impossible to have proceeded with a wheeled carriage. From the capital of Russia to the banks of the Dnieper, we had journeyed in kibitkas placed upon sledges; but at Kiew, the snow failing us, we had been obliged to abandon that mode of travelling, and purchase the unlucky *bridgkas*, whose numerous accidents had been the cause of so much delay and ill-humour. The short experiment we had made of the

perilous rapidity of a Moldavian postillion, convinced us of the necessity of laying aside all ideas of the comfort of lying at full length in a *dormeuse*, and, of finally betaking ourselves to the jolting of the common carts of the country. These vehicles are made entirely of wood, without a single particle of iron about them; consequently, very light, readily upset, and as easily righted: they are about three feet high, and four feet long, and capable only of holding a portmanteau, upon which a small quantity of hay being placed, the traveller sits. The rudeness of their construction makes them easy of repair; they are changeable at every post-house, and four horses are always harnessed to each, who uniformly proceed at a full gallop. If our vehicles were of an extraordinary structure, the figures of our postillions were no less remarkable; they wore either a rough goat-skin cap, of most hideous appearance, or their hair was shaved off close to the skull, in such a manner as to leave a large tuft attached at its roots only to the crown of the head, but falling with its shaggy locks about the ears, over the eyes, and down the neck. A short distance from Jassy, as you go to the south, the road ascends a considerable hill; from which, on looking back, the numerous churches and white houses of the town, with the palace of the Hospodar, form a very picturesque and striking view. We continued to travel over a hilly and wooded country for

three stages, when we stopped for the evening. We arose early in the morning, and soon after leaving the post-house, passed by the expiring fires of a small encampment of peasants, who were busy in yoking their oxen to carts loaded with hay and casks of wine, and preparing to leave the spot where they had bivouacqued for the night. As soon as it was light, we found ourselves proceeding across an elevated valley (for we had observed no corresponding descent after reaching the summit of the mountains to the south of Jassy), bounded by moderate hills, clothed with wood to the left, and having on the right an unenclosed country covered with hay-stacks. The valley soon opened into a succession of small plains, the soil of which was of sand and clay, and so perfectly alluvial, that not a stone, of any magnitude whatever, was any where to be observed. On the surface of the country abounding in forage, great herds of cattle, and numerous droves of horses were grazing in every direction; the sides of the hills which sloped to the small plains, were enclosed, and extremely well cultivated, and the soil appeared a rich black mould. We continued to gallop along; in case of an upset from the loss of a linch-pin, the postillion descended, and cutting a peg from a neighbouring tree, replaced the wheel; and when the velocity of our pace threatened conflagration, the use of grease was not recurred to, but means more

natural were employed to obviate the effects of friction.

The continued effort required to keep the body erect on the top of the bundle of hay placed on our portmanteaus, would not allow us to call this mode of travelling agreeable; but yet, at the close of the evening, with a beautiful sunset, when a turn of the road gave me a glimpse of the whole of our party as it passed along the windings of a valley, the van led by two Tartar couriers, whom we had overtaken, and our horses animated to their utmost speed, by the prolonged cry of the Moldavian *surugees*, resembling a loud shout heard at a distance; there was something so extremely fine in the wild air of the postillions, and the unabating rapidity with which we traversed the country, that I forgot, for a moment, the rude jolting of the miserable vehicle.

The country partially covered with snow, seemed thinly inhabited; but at a short distance from the town of Birlat, we observed a village, consisting of about fifty low thatched mud cottages, arranged round a plain large white building, the chateau of the Boyar, to whom the hamlet belonged.

It was our intention to have slept at Pereskiff, which we reached at night-fall; but finding the only room in the post-house occupied by the two couriers who had here got

the start of us, and appeared neither willing to cede, or divide their apartment, we were obliged to drive on to Tekuten. Here the family of the postmaster, consisting of himself, two sons, and a daughter, a very fine girl, who was suckling her child on the floor, consented to allow us to sleep in one corner of their hut; our rest was disturbed in the middle of the night by an alarm occasioned by a wolf; and we could easily distinguish, in the cries of the family, who jumped up to overtake the ravenous animal, the words *lupo* and *porco*. In the morning they lamented to us their ineffectual pursuit, and the loss of one of their swine; and deplored the frequent damage done by the attacks of these animals, who abound in the neighbouring woods. We could easily believe the stories of the boldness of these depredators, as the day before we had shot at one, who came within a short distance of our carts, as we gallopped along the road.

*Jan.* 14. Early in the morning we left the post-house, and at the distance of a mile reached the banks of the river Seret, which, to judge from the appearance of its bed, (at least a quarter of a mile broad,) must be a most formidable torrent, when swollen by the melting of the snow in the spring; at present, it was shrunk into a comparatively small stream, giving us an opportunity of examining the various pebbles it had washed down from the mountains on the west and south-west. We had been travelling from

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Jassy over a country so entirely alluvial, that the sight of a stone was become a curiosity, but these were all of secondary rocks, and chiefly calcareous. The passage of the Seret was a service of some danger; it was only partially frozen over, and our postillions were unacquainted with the winding course it was necessary to observe. Some peasants from the opposite side saw our dilemma, and came to our assistance; they were provided with long poles, and pointing out to us the situation of the holes to be avoided, led the horses, one by one, and afterwards dragged the carts separately across. At twelve o'clock we reached the picturesque town of Fokschani, the limit of the territory of the Hospodar of Moldavia. We had a letter from Jassy for the *Starosta*, the title of a native of the island of Zante, who is the protector of the British subjects in the town and neighbourhood of Fokschani, and in some sort, the representative of his Majesty of England. The King's arms were suspended over the door of his house, and we entered a small room, containing an extremely clean and comfortable sofa; which, a comparison with the usual accommodations of the post-houses, made us feel doubly luxurious. The protégées of the *Starosta* (who was appointed to this post about two years ago by the British Consul-General * at Buchorest), were all of them

* This appointment, with all its subordinate ones of Vice Consul, Dragoman,

natives of the former Septinsular Republic; and the emoluments of his office arose from a kind of capitation tax on each individual, of ten piastres per annum.

The reciprocal benefit they receive, in exchange for this contribution, consists in the good offices of an agent, recognised by the native magistrate, or *Ispravnik*, to whom they can appeal in case of oppression. The appointment of the *Starosta* is, as may well be imagined from the small number of *subjects*, not a very lucrative one; but we found him living in very comfortable circumstances; which he explained, by informing us, that he rented some lands on the sides of the mountains to the west of the town. This farm was of sufficient extent to employ 400 peasants, whom he represented to be, like all the natives of the country, extremely lazy; he rears a considerable number of poultry, but wine, which is the chief article of commerce of this neighbourhood, forms the principal produce of his land.

The best wine is made at the village of Odobezd, at the distance of three hours; it is sold at the rate of ten paras the oke, and the greater part of it exported to Russia; it is a pleasant-tasted white wine, but of a thin and meagre quality. Fokschani, though small, contains

and Starosta, has lately been abolished as unnecessary; so that we have now no longer any representative at the courts of their Highnesses the Waivodes of Moldavia and Wallachia.

twenty-four Greek churches ; it is divided by an inconsiderable stream into two parts ; the one Moldavian, the other Wallachian.

The house of the *Starosta* was on the Wallachian side. To prevent the quarrels which might arise amongst the inhabitants, and the numerous couriers who pass to and from Russia, twenty-four Turkish soldiers, under the command of two inferior officers, are quartered in the town. The population of Fokschani, and the neighbouring villages, has been much diminished by the plague, which, two years ago, carried off 5,000 inhabitants. Having reposed ourselves for a few hours in the comfortable house of the *Starosta*, who treated us with great hospitality, and procured a renewal of our order for horses * from the *Ispravnik* of the Wallachian division of the town, we again mounted our carts, and set off for Buchorest.

We crossed, at the distance of a mile from Fokschani, the bed of an immense winter torrent, wider than any *Fiumara* I had ever seen in Sicily, the banks of which were extremely precipitous, and more than thirty feet high; the section of the soil exhibited thick beds of sand and clay. On clearing the top of the opposite bank, the magnificent

* There is that kind of courtesy between the neighbouring Hospodars, that a traveller who arrives at the frontiers of the one principality, furnished with an order for horses, is always forwarded by the other in the same gratuitous manner.

plain opened before us which reaches to Buchorest. Towards the west, at a considerable distance, was a range of mountains, the sides of which were well cultivated, and interspersed with numerous villages. To the east, as far as the eye could reach, the flat was bounded only by the horizon; patches of maize were here and there observable on the surface of the plain, but, in general, the road wound through an interminable forest of dwarf oaks. We continued to gallop along the even country, occasionally crossing small *Fiumaras*, for the loose soil is easily ploughed up by the winter torrents, till we reached the river Bouzes; it was a moon-light night, the stream only half frozen over; the first part we crossed on the ice, the latter we forded. At the end of the fourth stage we halted for the evening, and took up our abode in the most wretched cabin either of us had ever witnessed; it was the cavern of a Troglodyte; an almost roofless out-house, full of poultry, formed the vestibule to the *souterrain*, into which we descended by three steps, and where we found two women and three children, squatting round some lighted sticks burning on a hearth; a chimney made of baked mud projected over the fire, and approached so near to the flame, as scarcely to allow room for the persons who were thus warming themselves, to thrust their heads over the volumes of smoke that were partly ascending the outlet, but chiefly diffusing themselves around the

den that received us; it was not possible to stand erect; so that, bidding defiance to the smoke, and the danger of suffocation, we were obliged to lie down on the wooden bench that was raised along two sides of the apartment. My companion had been in the huts of Nubia and Egypt, and I had occasionally myself been but indifferently accommodated in Finland, Sicily, and Greece; but we both agreed, that this was the most miserable hole in which we had ever been obliged to pass the night. The jolting, however, of the whole day had prepared us for repose, and we slept for several hours. When we emerged in the morning from our subterranean abode, we found the weather excessively cold, and continued our route over a country now quite denuded of trees, in fact, a perfect steppe; innumerable barrows were scattered over its extent; a range of low hills was seen on our right to the north-west, and the scene was occasionally varied, by villages of low brown-looking thatched mud cottages, surrounded and almost hid by hay-stacks. At the distance of three stages from Buchorest, the ground was covered with so much snow, that it was advisable to quit our wheeled carts, and move our portmanteaus and hay into so many light sledges.

We glided along the smooth frozen surface with astonishing rapidity (for we always travelled with four horses), but the irregularity of the ground, and the occasional deficiency

of snow, made it a matter of doubt whether we had much benefited by the change.

We entered the capital of Wallachia at eleven o'clock at night.

The extraordinary phenomenon of a pure despotism exercised by a Greek Prince, who is himself, at the same time, an abject slave, occurs again at Buchorest. What adds also to the curiosity of so unusual a sight, is the recollection that this violent form of government is upheld without the aid of any military force; no where is there the least appearance of an army; the Hospodar has no troops, except about twenty Servian and Albanian guards, who are attached immediately to his person, and used chiefly for state ceremonies. The authority of the Prince is maintained by intrigue; the habitual terror inspired by Turkish domination, the forbearance of neighbouring nations, and the absolute want of energy on the part of the inhabitants themselves. The Boyar, exempt from taxes, and given up to licentiousness, is greedy of office, that he may gratify his own corrupt venality; while the peasant seems characterized by nothing so much as a patient endurance of every act of oppression. To begin with the head of the government: the Hospodar has probably paid for his own nomination three or four millions of piastres, in different bribes, to the Grand Vizier, the Reis Effendi, and other great officers at Constantinople. From the capital of his

province, where he appears in the exercise of his delegated authority, more like a farmer-general than a sovereign prince, he is expected to send annually twenty millions of piastres to the treasury of the Grand Seignior, besides various monthly presents to the friends who protect him at court. Here, as at Jassy, the different offices conferred by the prince, are eagerly coveted and sold to the highest bidder; for the hereditary Boyars, as well as they who have raised themselves to the rank of nobles, by the purchase of a *caftan*, are free from contribution. It would appear, however, that if the nobles pay no direct taxation, yet they are obliged to let their lands to the oppressed peasants at such low rents, that their immunity is merely nominal. The Wallachian boyars are said also to have fewer privileges and less influence with the chief of the government, than the nobles of the adjoining province of Moldavia, which, perhaps, may be explained by their greater proximity to the Turkish frontier.

But the same system of corruption * exists in the administration of both principalities, nor is it confined to the more important offices, but pervades the whole body, and extends to the lowest agent of government. The *Ispravnik*, or magistrate of a village, has also purchased his place, and

* As a specimen of the value of a place at Buchorest, that of Aga, or master of police, is worth 150,000 piastres annually; its revenue arises from arbitrary duties of toll levied on articles of provision brought into the city.

consequently his right to oppress the unfortunate peasant who is subject to his authority, and whose condition is as hopeless and lamentable as can well be imagined. If he complain of injustice received at the hands of his petty tyrant, the all-powerful influence of money, makes "the "worse appear the better reason," the affair is decided against him, and the importunate suitor is beaten for his pains. In other parts of the Ottoman empire, the *Karatch*, or capitation tax, though still admitting of some modifications, is generally fixed at the sum of twelve piastres, to be paid by every male who is not of the Mohammedan faith; but here in the tributary provinces of Moldavia and Wallachia, there is no limit to the extent of contribution; the demands of the government are unbounded, and a peasant may be called upon to pay, at various times, two or three hundred piastres in the course of the year. Apprized of the approach of the tax-gatherers, he frequently deserts his home, in the vain hope of escaping the heavy exaction: but his wife and children are left behind, and nothing can be more revolting to the common feelings of humanity, than the stories we heard of the cruelties practised towards these helpless wretches, for the purpose of compelling them to produce their hidden treasures. They are flogged, or the doors of their huts being closed, are exposed to the fumes of burning wood, till suffocation is almost produced; in short, they are tortured by every imaginable refinement

of barbarity, to compel them to confess, where the husband or the money is concealed. At length reduced to ruin and despair, his cattle driven away, and all his stock taken from him, the peasant quits his native cottage in search of a less mercenary *Ispravnik*, under whose protection he may place himself. He travels onward bargaining with the different village despots, until he finally meets with one who is content to take a moderate annual sum, as a sort of modus of contribution. Possessing no capital, the fugitive has no other resource but the labour of his hands, with the earnings of which he may endeavour to satisfy the claims of government and maintain his own family. It is not, however, to be supposed, that the *Ispravnik* considers himself bound to abide by the terms of his agreement; the least appearance of increasing wealth on the part of the peasant, or even the wantonness of mere tyrannical caprice, may call for fresh and unexpected levies.

Notwithstanding the great fertility of the soil, and the low annual rent paid to the proprietor, amounting only to one-tenth of the produce of the land, the wretched form of government is so hostile to population, that the ordinary price of labour is fifty *paras* per day; now this, considering the cheapness of provisions, is an exorbitant sum; but the country is very thinly inhabited, nor can any measures check the spirit of emigration into Transylvania and the adjoining provinces of the empire of Austria. Should the

peasant, after a few years' absence, be induced to return to his native country, he takes the precaution of being previously naturalized, then claims the protection of the Austrian consul at Buchorest, and enjoys an exemption from all contribution.

Thus the principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia resemble a newly-settled country, containing only a scanty population. The land is plentiful and productive, but the labourers to cultivate it are scarce; hence, compared with the price of provisions, wages are very high, as their rate, according to an established axiom of political economy, depends always upon the proportion that capital bears to the labouring part of the community.

Such are the evils resulting from the rapacity that distinguishes the ephemeral administration of an Hospodar; under a more mild, stable, and enlightened form of government, the peasant would live in easy and even affluent circumstances, for nothing can exceed the fruitfulness of Wallachia, which is the granary of Constantinople, and supplies that capital with provisions of every description.

The inhabitants of Buchorest are also abundantly furnished with the necessaries as well as luxuries of life, and we were particularly struck with the great profusion of game.

Beef was selling in the market at 16 paras the oke= $2\frac{1}{4}$lbs.

An ox fit to kill would fetch from 50 to 60 piastres.

The following were the prices of the corresponding articles :—

A brace of partridges..... 70 paras.
Ditto black cock..... 70 ditto.
A wild duck..... 45 ditto.
A roebuck with its skin, 22 piastres, about 14*s.* 8*d.*

The wine of the country is not good, for the summer, though hot, is of too short a duration to ripen the grapes. The city is also ill supplied with wood, which is daily brought in small carts from a great distance, and being cut from young forests, is green, and ill adapted for the purposes of fuel.

The city of Buchorest is situated in a hollow, the environs are marshy, and the inhabitants suffer considerably from the prevalence of low fevers and agues. Underneath the wooden sleepers laid across the streets, the liquid filth of the town, in the state of a quagmire, accumulates in sewers, which it is next to impossible to drain, and which are never cleaned. Many of the larger houses and convents, as well as the churches, all uniformly built of brick, and whitened with plaster, are surrounded by lofty walls formed of flat bricks, in the manner observed in remains of Roman construction.

The Hospodar is not so well lodged as his neighbour at Jassy, for his palace was burnt accidentally two years

ago, on which occasion he is reported to have suffered a loss amounting to 100,000 piastres. He now occupies two houses of rather a shabby appearance, connected together by a wooden gallery.

On *Monday, Jan.* 19, the day of the Epiphany, the Prince received the visits of the principal Wallachian nobles and foreign consuls, and, on that day, we were also admitted to an audience of his Highness; the Princess his wife, and her daughters, were sitting cross-legged on sofas near the *Waivode*, and to them also the visitors paid their respects. To the usual salutations was added the extraordinary one of kissing the palm of the hand of the Hospodar; a ceremony which I observed all the ladies, as well as the men, performed. There was nothing remarkable in the room into which we were admitted, except what appeared rather singular in the house of a native of the East, that the floor was covered with an English carpet.

Most of the European governments maintain consuls here and at Jassy, who are considered and treated as the guests of the Hospodars, from whose table each receives a daily allowance, called *Tayeen*, of four okes of meat, and eight loaves of bread. Besides, they are furnished with wood for fuel, and forage for their horses, in such abundance, as to be enabled, occasionally, to sell a part.

The Prince of Wallachia is said to affect more of the

Turk than the neighbouring Hospodar at Jassy, and to be equally skilful in the administration of his authority. Though it has been frequently observed that there is no government in the world, professing to be represented at all by diplomatic agents, that is kept in such profound ignorance of the political affairs of other courts, as the sublime Porte; yet, we were credibly informed, the Waivode at Buchorest maintained a secret correspondence with the secretary of one of the most efficient personages during the Congress at Vienna.

The bribe was a considerable one, being no less than 1,000 ducats monthly; but, by this means, he obtained the earliest intelligence of the transactions of that important period; the immediate transmission of which to Constantinople, was of no small importance to the Hospodar, in strengthening his interest with the ministers of the Grand Seignior.

Our visit to the Hospodar offered nothing worth mentioning; and after the usual routine of questions and answers, we retired through a crowd of importunate servants, who were most indecorously eager to catch and struggle for the douceur, which it is always customary to distribute among the attendants of a Pasha. As we drove away, a ducat had unluckily fallen on the ground, and the scuffle that ensued amongst the domestics to recover

the piece of money from the dirt and mud of the court, was far from consistent with the dignified deportment usually observed by even the lowest attendants on a princely audience.

On another day we paid a visit to the Metropolitan of Wallachia, formerly Bishop of Craiova, but lately nominated to the Archbishopric of Buchorest; he is at the head of the Greek church throughout the principality, and receives from every *papas*, or priest, the sum of fifteen piastres annually; his income is stated to amount to nearly 400,000 piastres, but he is occasionally obliged to yield a portion of this considerable revenue to the sudden demands of the Hospodar. The metropolitan church and palace stand on a sand-bank that overlooks the town; and, on approaching the latter, we were rather surprised to find the Russian double-headed eagle, with an escutcheon of pretence, bearing the arms of Wallachia, *viz.*, a magpie holding a cross in its mouth, painted, and still allowed to remain on the wall. We found the Archbishop, an elderly white-bearded rubicund bon vivant, reclining on a sofa, after an early dinner, to which he appeared to have done ample justice. His whole conversation, which was carried on in Greek, for he spoke no other language, turned on subjects of gourmandise. Though rather infirm, having lately recovered from a fit of the gout, he was extremely lively, talked incessantly, and endeavoured to amuse us with a very long story, of a visit he had

paid to an acquaintance in the country, to which he had been much importuned, and where he had been very ill entertained.

The table had been served with three dishes only, and he had been so sparingly supplied with wine, that it was by dint of contrivance he had obtained three glasses of a very indifferent quality. The relation of the disappointment endured by the jovial Metropolitan from the slender hospitality of his friend, greatly excited his mirth, though it somewhat fatigued the patience of his hearers. When our interview was concluded, we were shewn the library of the palace, containing a great number of books; but treated in a manner which indisputably proved that the *Bibliomania* had not yet infected the interior of Dacia. Greek and Sclavonian MSS. were lying pêle-mêle on the floor, or covered with dust, and piled up on shelves, together with very excellent modern French works, which latter formed at one time the library of the celebrated traveller Sonnini; and, if I am not mistaken, had been lately bequeathed to the palace by a Wallachian nobleman, who had either purchased, or inherited them from the French traveller. We were turned into the library as into a lumber room; and, in its present state of confusion and neglect, more curious or less scrupulous visitors than ourselves, might have carried off, without the least difficulty, many a rare and precious manuscript.

The inhabitants of Buchorest are as much addicted to the vice of gambling, and the love of dissipation in general, as those of the capital of Moldavia. There was, however, no theatre open, and their chief public amusement consisted in the jolting promenade along the streets, similar to that described at Jassy. But as we were here during the carnival, there were public balls two or three times a week at one of the principal inns, and we were present one evening at a sort of theatrical exhibition resembling the feats of horsemanship at Astley's; the entertainment, which was given by some itinerant Germans, in a public building called "*The Club,*" began with a dance executed on stilts, and concluded with a ludicrous scene in imitation of our popular farce of the "Tailor riding to Brentford." The dialogue was in German, a language much spoken here; and it gave a laughable air of dignity to the representation, to listen to the calpaked courtiers of the Hospodar, translating into modern Greek parts of the ridiculous conversation of the players. When, for instance, the inexperienced rider asks the innkeeper in the farce, if he has any steady horse he can recommend to him, the Wallachian gentry thought it a very good joke to surround the officer of the Prince, who is at the head of the department of the post at Buchorest, and teaze him with the question, εχετε αλογοί καλλοί, "Have you good horses." Many of the tricks of the performers were of the coarsest

description; but the Princess and her daughters who were present at the entertainment, seated on sofas at the upper end of the room, and dressed with a profusion of jewels, seemed highly delighted, and laughed immoderately at jests, not much distinguished by good breeding. As a proof of the state of morals in the capital, the son of the Hospodar (dressed like a Turk, and wearing a turban, in which he would not have dared to be seen at Constantinople,) entered the club, where sat his mother and sisters, having on his arm his mistress, a beautiful Wallachian lady, who had lately deserted her husband and six children; there appeared to be nothing extraordinary, or that was considered indelicate, in his conduct. The Prince himself was not at the club, but most of the officers of his court, and many of the principal nobles of Wallachia were assembled in the room; they were uniformly dressed in huge calpaks, with long flowing robes, and many were smoking Turkish pipes; in short, every thing was Eastern in the appearance of the men, though in the costume of the ladies, who were sitting cross-legged on sofas, there was an evident admixture of French and Oriental attire; their coiffures were richly ornamented with jewels, and they wore French silk dresses, probably made at Vienna, together with the Greek zone and Turkish slippers. Under the jealous eye of the suspicious government of Turkey, the article of

dress is a matter of no small importance; and the use of the costume of civilized Europe would be considered as dangerous an innovation, as the adoption of the most enlightened views of modern policy.

During the occupation of the country by the Russians, the boyars eagerly laid aside this loose attire, and wore the French dress; but on their return to Turkish authority, they were obliged to resume the robe and the calpak. It was with reluctance they saw themselves revert to their former masters; and, it is said, they envy the lot of the inhabitants of that part of Moldavia, who are so happy as to enjoy the protection of the autocrat of all the Russias. When the imperial head-quarters were at Buchorest, the army spent considerable sums of money in the town, a circumstance which makes the inhabitants regret still more their absence.

It would seem, therefore, that the lapse of a century has made a great change in the political feelings of the natives of these countries, as may be inferred from their conduct in 1711, at the most critical period of the war carried on by Peter the Great against the Turks. Cantemir, the Prince of Moldavia, who, in addition to his boasted descent from the great Tamerlane, was distinguished by talents worthy of the antient Greeks, possessing alike a knowledge of letters and arms, had thrown off his allegiance to the Porte and joined the army of the Czar, which was

encamped on the north bank of the Pruth. The tents of the Grand Vizier were on the opposite side of the river; and the fate of the campaign might depend, in a great measure, on the decision of the people, in the centre of whose territory the hostile troops were assembled. But neither the example, nor the entreaties, of the accomplished Prince of Moldavia were able to shake the former attachment of his subjects; and they, as well as their neighbours, the inhabitants of Wallachia, espoused the party of the Grand Vizier, and abundantly supplied the Turkish camp with provisions. "Tant," says Voltaire, "l'ancienne idée de la barbarie Muscovite avoit aliéné tous "les esprits."

*Jan.* 23. Having remained a week at Buchorest, and obtained a Wallachian passport to the frontiers of the province and the banks of the Danube, as well as a *Buiurldù*, written in Turkish characters, and containing a recommendation to the Agas and Governors of the towns in Bulgaria and Romelia; we made preparations for continuing our route, and were advised to take one of the janissaries of the former British consul-general, who was to act as our guide and interpreter. The *Yassakgee*, having been employed in the service of the consul, and still wearing the lofty yellow cap of a Tartar, would be useful in procuring us horses, and, perhaps, by his presence, protect us, in some measure, against insult from

the Turks. For it must be observed, that a traveller, entering the Turkish dominions by a distant frontier, has not the same facilities as one who sets out from the capital. Had we been leaving Constantinople with the fehrman of the Grand Seignior, and a Turkish janissary of the English ambassador, we might have adopted a higher tone, since, to speak the truth, every thing in this country is done by bullying, nor is there any respect shewn to a stranger, unless he appear to have the right to exact it. With the passport of a Greek Prince, and under the escort of a Christian courier, it was necessary to be firm, prudent, but unassuming.

The route, from Buchorest to the Danube, was to be performed in an equipage similar to that in which we had travelled from Jassy; and we left the Wallachian capital in a considerable caravan, consisting of five small carts, each drawn by four horses. We set off at full gallop; and, as it had thawed during the night previous to our departure, the situation of a traveller, seated in one of these low vehicles at the distance of a few feet only from the heels of four animals who were advancing at full speed, may easily be imagined. When we had fairly got through the streets, and up a steep bank of sand close to the town, it was impossible to distinguish the different individuals of our party, for we were all covered with one uniform coating of mud. We proceeded over

a tract of country very level, covered with dwarf oaks, maple trees, and underwood, consisting chiefly of black thorn.

The village at which we first stopped to change horses, might well be taken for the rude abode of the most uncivilized horde; the houses were all constructed alike, and upon the same plan as the subterranean residence in which we had passed the night previous to our arrival at Buchorest. A square room, made of wicker or basket work, whose interstices were filled with dried mud, and having a roof of reeds, formed a sort of entrance to a hole in the earth, into which was a descent by a few steps; on the outside it was scarcely elevated above the ground, except where the chimney (made of reeds or twigs wattled together,) indicated the centre of the mound, that had much more the air of the hiding-place of a mole, which, having buried itself in the earth had thrown a heap of loose soil over its back, than the residence of man *. Before our arrival at the second stage, we crossed the river Argis, which is in spring (when swelled

* Father Avril, a Jesuit, who visited this country in 1688, describes the natives as living at that time in similar subterranean habitations, which they resorted to for protection and security.

" This province," says he, " would be one of the richest in Europe, were it " less exposed to the insults of the Turks and Tartars; but the forces that the " one and the other of them continually send through it, to defend Caminiec, " have destroyed it so much, that it lies unmanured in many places, for want of " inhabitants to cultivate it; especially in the eastern part, which confines to " Tartary, where such of the inhabitants that live in the open country, are

by the melting of the snow), a most formidable torrent; and, having ascended some high banks, clothed with oak, lime and beech trees, pursued our route over an elevated plain covered with long grass and dwarf oaks. A beautiful moonlight accompanied us to the last Wallachian post-house, about an hour's drive from the Danube and the Bulgarian frontier. Here we were shewn the spot, where the Russians had formed a considerable encampment, during the last war with the Turks, and on the adjoining steppe, were told, there had been some hard fighting*. The lofty minarets of the mosques, and the turbaned inhabitants of the village of Georgiova, who surrounded us as we reached the left bank of the Danube, early in the morning of the 24th of January, announced that we were on the verge of Christendom.

" obliged to dig lodges under ground, to avoid the fury of those implacable " enemies of Christianity."—*Travels into Divers Parts of Europe and Asia, undertaken by the French King's Order, to Discover a New Way by Land into China.*—Book V. p. 94.

* In the war which was terminated by the peace of 1812, there were no great battles, the chief affairs consisted in taking the strong places on the Danube. After the passage of the river, the Russians advanced as far as Chumla, which they besieged, but did not get possession of, and a few cossacks galloped even as far as Adrianople. It is difficult to acquire any precise information of the particulars of this campaign, but I have heard, there is a work now printing at Vienna, in modern Greek, under the title of " *A History of Wallachia,*" which will contain an account of this war.

# CHAP. III.

## CONTENTS.

CASTLE AND TOWN OF RUDSCHUK—ENTRANCE INTO BULGARIA—VILLAGES OF CRESTO AND BIELO—PASSAGE OF THE RIVER JANTRA—METHOD OF SUMMONING THE CHIEF OF A VILLAGE—TOWN OF TERNIVA—VILLAGE OF GABLOVA—CROSS MOUNT HÆMUS—ESKI SAGRA, ANTIENTLY BERÆA—PASSAGE OF THE HEBRUS—SERVIAN MARRIAGE—DSISR-MUSTAFA—ADRIANOPLE—CHAN—MOSQUE OF SULTAN SELIM—BAZAAR OF ALI PASHA—CARAVANSERAI OF HAFSA—ESKI BABA—CHOURLI—TOWN OF SELIVRIA ON THE SEA OF MARMARA—CONSTANTINOPLE.

# CHAPTER III.

THERE are some batteries near the shore of the river, and on a small island opposite is a fortress, in which, however, neither guns nor soldiers were visible. We dismissed our Wallachian carts and postillions, and, with our baggage on the bank, stood bargaining with the Mohammedan boatmen, who were to ferry us across the Danube; as they saw our necessity and haste, they had the conscience to ask sixty piastres; and it was intimated to us, that we ought to think the demand reasonable, as a courier had been obliged to pay one hundred piastres for a boat, only a few days before. Having rowed across a small arm of the river, our boatmen jumped out on the banks of an island, which divides it from the principal stream, and roused a vulture that continued to fly before them, as they hauled our boat along; our crew re-embarked, when we arrived at the main river, and by the help of our oars, after two hours from the time we left Georgiova, we landed under the walls of the ruined fortress of Rudschuk. The castle, which, since its destruction by the Russians, remains untouched, stands upon a limestone rock, close

to the edge of the Danube, whose banks in the immediate neighbourhood are in many places twenty feet high, very precipitous, and formed of beds of sand and clay; the breadth of the river may be estimated at three-quarters of a mile, the stream is very rapid, and the waters, at the time of our passage, were very muddy. Little has been done towards repairing the town of Rudschuk, since its burning by the Russians; and, cold and wet from our boat, we waded through its muddy streets amongst ruined buildings, till we reached the stranger's room at the Turkish post-house. Perhaps, a description of our apartment will not justify any great expectations of comfort, though, upon a comparison with the Wallachian post-houses we had been lately accustomed to, it had considerably the advantage; it was, at least, elevated above the surface of the ground, we had even ascended to it by a flight of steps; it was, besides, cleaner, more spacious, and much lighter. This latter advantage it owed, unfortunately, to large apertures, of very different construction from the double windows of Russia; on the outside of a sort of iron grating, or jalousie, at the distance of a few inches, was fixed a slender wooden frame, with panes of oiled paper, having here and there a few perforations, transmitting air as well as light.

When to this situation, al fresco, it be added, that there is here a great deficiency of fire-wood, it cannot be supposed

we had much to boast of, but still, after being seated on the low divan, when coffee and pipes were presented to us with that air of easy and graceful politeness that always distinguishes Turkish hospitality, our arrival in a new country was a subject of congratulation. At twelve o'clock we were served with excellent carp and pike from the Danube, followed by the Turkish dishes, *Pilau* and *Yaourt;* and, as we were to travel from Rudschuk to Constantinople on horseback, the remainder of the day was employed in completing our purchases of bridles and saddles, necessary for the expedition. There were ninety horses kept at the post-house, of which our party required ten; five for ourselves and servants, three for our baggage, and two for the *Surugees*, who were to accompany us, to bring them back. The distance from hence to Terniva, is computed at eighteen hours, a low estimate even for a courier; for we found that, travelling with our baggage, at the rate of four miles an hour, it required two long days. As there is no regular price for post-horses, the moderation of the bargain always depending upon the strength of the fehrman of the traveller, and we could only exhibit the *Buiurldù* of the Hospodar, we had reason to be satisfied with the demand of the post-master, amounting to three sequins for his ten horses, which were to be employed in our service during at least four days.

Before day-light on the 25th of January, as the *Muezzinn*

was calling from the gallery of the minaret, the faithful followers of Mahomet to their earliest prayers, we rode out of the court of the post-house, and descended the dirty wretched streets of Rudschuk, to the banks of a small stream flowing on the south side, in which were anchored a few Turkish gun-boats that had been employed against the Russians in defence of the town. The road continued, for a short distance, along the foot of some bold perpendicular rocks of a chalky nature, full of caverns; and brought us at length upon a fine unenclosed undulating country, intersected occasionally by deep ravines, with here and there a few wild apple and elm trees. Fountains by the way-side, ornamented with verses from the Koran, were of frequent occurrence; and sometimes we passed by Turkish burying-grounds on the wild waste, at a great distance from any habitation, the monuments of which were generally rough stones set upright, decorated occasionally only by rudely-sculptured turbans.

Some herds of buffaloes were seen grazing, and a few traces of the labour of man were observable in small patches cultivated with maize; but though the soil seemed every where extremely rich and good, we travelled for six hours over a tract, that appeared almost a desert. The Bulgarian village of Cresto, where we halted, is situated on a hill, and surrounded by fruit-trees, pears, apples, and

walnuts; at its entrance are two burying-grounds opposite each other, the one Christian, the other Mohammedan; the tomb-stones of which are distinguished by rude resemblances of the respective symbols, the cross and the turban, that characterize the different religions. The low and dark houses of the peasants, are made of twigs wattled together, and each is surrounded by an enclosure or fence, within which the winter provision of Indian corn is piled up in lofty inverted conical baskets, of a similar construction. As the present inhabitants of Cresto are of the Greek religion, our *Yassakgee* procured us accommodations with all the insolence and authority of a Turk, lording it over the submissive peasants, under the assumed name of Jusuf Aga; an appellation we observed he always continued to take whenever we reached a village inhabited by Christians, and he spoke Turkish so fluently, that he occasionally ventured to pass for a Mussulman among the faithful themselves, for which hazardous experiment, he would undoubtedly have been punished in case of discovery.

From Cresto we rode over a country covered with wild apples, beech, elm, and hazel trees, and having passed through a fine valley, ascended towards a very large barrow, at least fifty feet in height; from the top of this eminence is a most extensive view of an uneven and wooded tract, reaching to the foot of the Balkan

mountains, the whole range of which was seen stretching along the horizon to the south.

Early in the evening we arrived at the large village of Bielo, situated on the sloping sides of several hills, containing a ruined mosque, and a considerable proportion of Turkish inhabitants. At the coffee-house, where we first stopped, we were refused admittance; and it was not till after various attempts, and wandering through the greatest part of the village (pursued every where by troops of dogs, barking and howling at the strangers), that we obtained permission to enter the hut of a Servian or Bulgarian peasant.

The houses here are generally built of rough stones, cemented together with mud, thatched with reeds, and each surrounded by the usual high fence of basket work. Our hut had two small rooms; in the first the family was employed in baking, and in the inner one behind, stood a stove made of mud, projecting from the wall, and warmed by the fire from without, to a degree of almost insufferable heat.

The native Christian inhabitants of this country, antiently known by the name of Mæsia, but now divided into two districts, denominated Servia and Bulgaria, are collectively called Serbiani, and speak the Slavonian language; for the original Bulgarians were a Tartar people, who came in the fifth century from the banks

of the Volga, and successively adopted the Slavonian dialect of their new countrymen the Servians, retaining only a few words of their former language.

The following notice is given of them by the intelligent Busbequius *.

" Gentem Bulgarorum, à flumine Scytharum Volgo, " cum pleræque nationes aut sponte aut vi coactæ, sedes " mutarent, huc commigrasse existimant, dictosque Bul- " garos tanquam Volgaros, ab eo, quem dixi fluvio: " montes Hæmi, qui sunt inter Sophiam et Philippopolim, " insederunt: loca sane natura munita: ubi diu Græ- " corum imperatorum potentiam contempserunt; Balduі- " num majorem Flandriæ comitem Constantinoplis im- " perio potitum tumultuario prœlio captum interfecerunt. " Turcarum vim ferre non potuerunt, à quibus devicti " miserrimæ servitutis jugum subierunt, lingua utuntur " Illyrica, ut Serviani et Raziani.

" Epistol. I.—Pag. 45."

* Busbequius was sent as ambassador by the Emperor Ferdinand, King of the Romans, to Soliman, at Constantinople, about the year 1554, as it is conjectured, for there is some dispute about the exact date. He made two journeys into Turkey, " which," says Bayle, " deserve the approbation of " those who are able to judge of such writings." The opinion of Thuanus, on the Ambassador and his works, is as follows:—" A man eminent for his " learning, skill in transacting affairs, candour, and probity, who discharged " two embassies to the Ottoman Porte under the Emperor Ferdinand, with " great honour, and gave an account of them in very elegant and entertaining " Letters."

*Jan.* 26. The night had been very cold, and the ground was covered with snow; and when we left our quarters in the morning, two buffaloes were yoked to a sledge which carried our baggage down the steep and slippery hill on the south of the village to the banks of the river Iantra *, antiently called Iatrus.

Couriers are said to be sometimes detained ten days, before the passage of this torrent is practicable; and though it was now fordable in many places, it required the aid of fifteen peasants to assist our party across. As for ourselves we easily attained the other bank, but the carrying of our horses afforded rather a novel sight, and was effected in the following way:—two long very narrow canoes being tied laterally to each other, the horses were carefully taken on board, in such a manner, that their fore-feet were in one canoe and their hinder ones in the other, and when three had been transported at one time, the peasants returned for the remainder.

The fog, which cleared away as we quitted the right bank of the river, no longer concealed from us a beautiful valley, grown over with dwarf oaks, maple, and pollard elm trees. Buffaloes were drawing sledges across the cultivated country, on whose surface were visible many barrows; some Turks were amusing themselves with the

* The left bank of the river is formed by mural precipices, of white compact chalk, containing thin plates of flint arranged horizontally.

exercise of the *djerit* at a distance, on the side of the Iantra, and we passed several small villages, inhabited entirely by very dark swarthy gipsies; for, contrary to the usually unsettled habits of this extraordinary people, known among the Turks under the name of *Tchingenès*, they were here to be seen, occupying themselves in the labours of agriculture, and dwelling in fixed habitations. They are nominally of the Mussulman faith, as it appears they possess no distinct notions of religion peculiar to themselves, submitting to circumcision among the Mahometans, with the same indifference with which they allow themselves to be baptized in Christian countries; but their insincerity is so notorious, that the Turks treat them as *Rayahs*, and compel them to pay the karatch, or capitation tax, from which renegadoes are exempt.

We encountered no travellers, except now and then a small caravan of Servian peasants, who were transporting on horses various articles of merchandise, consisting principally of bales of cotton and rice. At mid-day we halted in the centre of a small village, and one of our *Surugees* having placed himself on a little eminence, set up a loud and piercing shout, which he maintained as long as his respiration would allow.

No inhabitant had been visible as we entered the village; but after one or two repetitions of this extraordinary

summons, an elderly peasant was seen making towards us with all possible speed, whom our conductors, on his approach, saluted with the dignified appellation of *Schorbatchie*, or captain, upbraiding him, however, at the same time, with his delay. He, it appeared, was the chief of the village, and on him devolved the duty of providing strangers with food and lodging: should the traveller be a Turk, these accommodations are harshly exacted, and, I believe, never requited; and though we always endeavoured at our departure, to satisfy our hosts, yet, as this remuneration was uncertain, our arrival in a village was never greeted by any very smiling countenances. On this occasion, the Schorbatchie conducted us to a hut, where we obtained our usual refreshment of bread, eggs, and wine, of not an unpleasant taste, though very weak in its quality; these articles of food were to be procured in almost every village we passed through, and if it were a large one, the Turkish luxury of *Yaourt*, was generally to be found.

At the distance of three hours, having crossed a small plain, covered with more than fifty barrows, on the right of which were observable the walls of a ruined town; we again forded the Iantra that here flows to the east, and had before us a most magnificent view of Mount Hæmus, whose base we were slowly approaching. As the day was on the decline, and Terniva, the town where we

were to change horses was still far off, and was chiefly inhabited by Turks; it was thought prudent to stop for the night at a Servian village, distant two miles only from the place where we had crossed the river. The same ceremony of summoning the Schortbatchie was put in practice when we entered the hamlet, but it was not so soon successful.

The dogs barked, the children cried; our arrival seemed to have spread consternation amongst all the inhabitants, and every door was shut and locked against us; to these signs of terror were added also the discordant notes of merriment, accompanying a procession in honour of the marriage of one of the peasants: the bride, covered with a large flaming red veil, was seen attending to a short distance from her cottage, some of her female friends, who had been to pay her the visit of ceremony, and were now returning in a cart, in which they stood upright; the vehicle was drawn by two buffaloes, preceded by two men who were playing on bagpipes. The chief of the village had been participating in these festivities, and it was not till after much yelling and vociferation on the part of our *Surugees*, that he reluctantly made his appearance, and compelled one of the peasants to open his hut for our accommodation.

*Jan.* 27. Several hours before day-light we were on horseback, and ascending a steep road, having on our left, in a deep narrow ravine, the river Iantra, and on our

right, precipitous limestone rocks, planted, wherever there was soil, with vineyards. After a ride of two hours by moonlight, a sharp turn of the road brought us suddenly to the wooden gate of the town of Terniva, conjectured to occupy the site of the ancient city of Nicopolis ad Hæmum. The houses, built close to the very edge of steep rocks, hang over the torrent of the river that winds its course through the confined and difficult pass below. Surrounded on all sides by mountains, the town stands in a situation at once bold, dangerous, and picturesque. The streets ill paved, were excessively dirty, and in many places darkened by wooden projections extending from the opposite houses, built, as is the case in all Turkish towns, so as to approach, and nearly touch each other at the top.

In the post-house, where we were detained a few hours waiting for horses, we unexpectedly witnessed the ceremony of a Mussulman's devotions.

An hour before sunrise the *Coffeegee* having prepared us coffee, retired into a corner of the room, and having, without the least reserve, performed the necessary ablutions, spread his garment on the ground, and began his prayers; he turned himself to the east, and, though several persons entered and left the apartment during his devotions, he seemed quite absorbed, and rose, and knelt, and prostrated himself with as much appearance of piety, as

if he had been praying in the holy temple of Mecca itself *.

As soon as our *Yassakgee* had bargained with the master of the post for our horses, we resumed our journey through a confined and rich valley, crossing the Iantra several times, now gradually becoming narrower, as it flowed at the foot of mountains that were cultivated with vines to their very summits. The road was occasionally near the bed of the torrent, sometimes on the steep slope of the mountains, and now and then it crossed their highest points, as the defile became too narrow to admit of our continuing in the valley.

We dined at a village distant four hours from Terniva, and afterwards continued to ascend hills covered with oak and beech trees, frequently fording the river, until, at the expiration of four hours more, the beautiful town of Gablova, built at the southern extremity of a fruitful valley, and surrounded by mulberry trees, afforded us accommodations and repose for the night.

A romantic bridge, constructed over a fall of the river, forms the entrance into the town, which is remarkable for

* These prostrations must be made on a carpet, or garment, spread on the ground, carefully avoiding every thing which does not present an even surface. Eight successive attitudes are used in the *Namaz*, forming what is called a rik'ath, and the prayer may consist of a repetition of several of these rik'aths. It is of the utmost importance, that the face should be turned towards the Caaba, or house of God, at Mecca.

its neatness, and a celebrity not very flattering to the chastity of its female inhabitants.

*Jan.* 28. Yesterday, though the road from Terniva had led us over a varied scene of hill and dale, yet we had been generally climbing, and might be considered to have begun the ascent of the Balkan; to-day we were to complete its passage, and trace the Iantra to its source.

Soon after leaving the town, we rode across a bold and picturesque bridge, built over a fall of the river, and followed the windings of a steep and rocky path, up the sides of hills, sometimes presenting sections of beds of shale, limestone, and ochre, but generally covered with beech trees, appearing of a stately growth at a distance, though uniformly disfigured near the road, by having their branches lopped off for the purposes of fire-wood. The mountain torrent tumbled at our feet in innumerable cascades, till at length we lost sight of it in a narrow pass where the road took a different direction. Higher up were a few stone huts near the way-side, for the accommodation of guards who were occasionally stationed there, against the depredations of robbers; the top of the mountain was bare of trees, and covered with snow, but the temperature by no means unpleasantly cold.

The passage of Mount Hæmus from Gablova to the village of Shipka, situated at its foot on the south side, occupied us only five hours; and, upon the whole, we were

rather disappointed in our expectation of fine scenery. To the right of the spot where we crossed was a point somewhat higher, but in general the outline of the mountains was, on nearer approach, of a tame character, offering no bold or prominent peaks. The descent, however, was much more rapid, and we had to lead our horses down a path, over fallen and projecting masses of schist *, that required considerable precaution.

The village of Shipka is embosomed in walnut and mulberry trees, on the skirts of a small plain that is covered with tumuli of various shapes, and in considerable numbers; a lofty conical one, around which were arranged with an appearance of symmetry five smaller barrows, attracted our attention, as well as one thrown up at some distance from this group, and distinguished among the others by a very long and truncated summit.

We were now in Romelia, as the Balkan forms the natural boundary between that and the province of Bulgaria, and having refreshed ourselves at Shipka, we rode to Kasanlik in two hours.

*Jan.* 29. We slept in the post-house, and were early summoned to remount our horses, and by sun-rise were

* The strata on the north side of Mount Hæmus are generally calcareous, the summit is a blue or variegated marble; but, the instant you begin to descend, the nature of the rocks suddenly changes into a hard argillaceous schist, abounding in large veins of quartz.

advancing over a plain with here and there a barrow, on the top of one of which was built a *kiosk*. Crossing a ridge of low mountains, I observed, for the first time, the appearance of primitive country in a number of granite points, which here come to the surface of the ground; farther on we travelled in the bed of a river, whose banks were formed of hornstone schist, and down the sides of which fell many rills that were generally employed in turning over-shot mills.

On our approach to Eski Sagra, the country became highly cultivated with vines, and every species of common fruit trees, mulberries, cherries, plums. The town is very Turkish, and the inhabitants, as we passed through the streets, regarded us with an air of savage curiosity, though, as we entered the court of the post-house, the post-master and his attendants held our stirrups, and helped us to descend, with the usual interchange of salutation:—

*Khosh Galdik* - - Welcome *.

*Khosh Boldúk* - - Well met.

On the arrival of a stranger at a Turkish post-house, he is always shewn into a room reserved for the use of travellers, which is generally matted, and has along one or two sides of the walls a low sofa, or long cushion, on

* Rendered more literally, perhaps, by the Italian expressions:—
*Ben trovato.*
*Ben incontrato.*

which he sits, or should sit, cross-legged. His entertainment uniformly commences with coffee and pipes, with which he passes the time, till a more substantial meal can be prepared. Our dinner, to-day, consisted of the following articles, which I give as a specimen of Turkish cookery. We had, of course, no knives nor forks, but there were several wooden spoons placed on a circular metallic table, just elevated above the floor. Having washed our hands, we began to finger, by the help of pieces of bread, some sheep's trotters, stewed in grease, a dish of rather an indifferent flavour. Next followed some harico mutton, which was extremely good, and then a large pile of pilau, or plain boiled rice,—the repast was concluded by a dish of excellent *yaourt*, or sour milk *. As infidels, we were allowed wine, besides the vinous liquor, called *sorbet*, drunk by Turks themselves, and made by bruising and steeping grapes in hot water, which is kept, and ferments for a short time in a close vessel, till it begins to acquire a slight acidity.

On riding out of the town of Eski Sagra, we observed on the capital of a pilaster, not in very good taste, that

* This is a very favourite dish among the Turks, and the process of making it is talked of as a sort of secret. Busbequius, when praising the moderation of that people in their diet, speaks of it in the following terms, " Quibus si sal " sit et panis, alliumque aut cæpa, aut acidi lactis genus, Galeno non ignoti, " quod ipse Oxygalam, isti *Jugurtham* dicunt, nihil requirant præterea."

*Epistol.* I. *pag.* 90.

was lying on the ground, and partly covered with long grass, the Greek characters

Θ

ΤΑΥΡΟΔΟΜΕΤΙΟΝ

It is difficult to assign any precise meaning to this inscription; perhaps, the latter word may be the appellation of some neighbouring town or village. D'Anville supposes that Berœa, or Beroe, situated on the confines of the province of Thrace Proper and Mæsia, and re-established by the Empress Irene, may be Eski-Zadra, or Sagra; but it would seem that the conjecture rests chiefly on the Turkish adjunct, Eski, signifying old, and employed frequently to indicate other ancient cities, of which Eski-Stamboul, the modern name of Alexandria Troas, in Asia Minor, may be cited as an example.

From the plain, upon which we got immediately on quitting the town, we enjoyed, on looking back, a beautiful view of the fine situation of Eski Sagra, with its eight mosques, built on the southern declivity of hills of the most graceful forms and in the highest state of cultivation. On all sides the flat we were crossing seemed shut in by different branches of Mount Hæmus, until after a ride of four hours, the first part through a forest of dwarf oaks, the latter

over a very marshy ground, we reached the village of which a sketch is given.

*Jan.* 30th. There was something very imposing in the ceremony of our departure from the places where we had lodged during the night. At the early hour of three o'clock we usually drank our coffee, of which our Christian and Turkish attendants alike partook. We then rode in silence for a few yards, till we were clear of the village, when the foremost *Surugee*, who led a baggage-horse, and regulated our pace at the rate of about four miles an hour, began his gentle trot with the Turkish exclamation* *Oughourlar olà!* receiving in reply the corresponding salutation, *Allah razi olà!* This mutual greeting was repeated along the whole line of our party, and we observed that it was always interchanged between travellers who might meet on the road. When proceeding from the mouth of the haughty Mussulman, as he passed over the wild country subject to his dominion, and uttered with the deep-toned guttural Turkish pronunciation, there was an air of dignity in the simple ceremony, that approached almost to the sublime.

Having travelled for four hours across a tract, in some places marshy, in others cultivated, and even occasionally enclosed, we stooped to enter the low door of a châu at the village of Karabona, where we were to breakfast. This,

* "May you have good omens!"
"May it so please God!"

like all the other villages in this part of Romelia, consists of brown-looking thatched cottages, surrounding a tall white building of a more ambitious appearance, having a conspicuous balcony projecting from one of its side walls, or a kiosk built upon its roof, from whence the *Aga*, whose residence it is, surveys the neighbouring country.

We were now approaching the Hebrus*, celebrated in classic story as the scene of the tragical death and miraculous constancy of Orpheus. On its banks he was torn in pieces by the fury of the neglected Ciconian women, and the head of the wretched lover floated down the stream that rolled its waters over golden sands, still calling on the name of his long-lost Eurydice. But, to leave the seductive fictions of antiquity, as we reached the river, now called Mariza, the country became more uneven, and was broken into rugged granitic rocks; wild roses, intermingled with stunted oaks, were growing in profusion, and, as a proof of the mildness of the climate, we were not able to wear our cloaks in the middle of the day, though it was now the depth of winter. Swallows were flying about its banks, which were covered with the crocus, and, in the islands or sandbanks in the middle of the stream, several storks were observable. We were ferried across the river, which is

* The Hebrus has its source in the valleys between Mount Hæmus and Rhodope; and having received various tributary streams, finally discharges itself into the Egean sea, opposite the island of Samothrace.

about two hundred yards broad, and terminated this day's journey at the village of Hevitza, at the distance of half a mile from its right bank.

In the evening we walked from the post-house to the farther end of the village, to witness the rustic festivities that precede the nuptials of a Servian peasant. A few days before, we had seen the procession of the friends of the newly married, now they were engaged in the feasting and dancing, that are kept up for eight days at the bridegroom's expense, before the day of marriage. The bride herself was at home in a neighbouring village, but the friends of her intended husband were assembled, some eating and drinking on the ground, and others, male and female, dancing the *romaic* in a circle round those who were carousing in the middle. The dancers held each other by the hand, but the two sexes were apart, forming distinct ends of the chain, and two minstrels playing on bagpipes, making most harsh music, were accompanying them in all their steps. Many of the girls wore head-dresses resembling helmets, formed chiefly of paras.

There was nothing very elegant in the movements of the dance, which was rather characterized by a very ungraceful sort of stamping, but they invited us to partake of their refreshments, and in return shewed no scruple in levying contributions upon us. When we drank to the health of the bride, the husband replied, "Amen." As we quitted

the rude merriment of the Christian marriage, the rays of the setting sun shone upon some Moslem figures, occupied in a distant burying-ground, in performing the last rites to one of the faithful

Saturday, *Jan.* 31. The road hence continues on the right bank of the Mariza, as far as Dsisr Mustafa, which we were ferried across, as the beautiful bridge * erected by that sultan has five of its arches broken, and has been allowed to remain in that state of decay during the last twenty years. Before we reached Adrianople every vestige of winter † had disappeared, not a particle of snow was observable on the surface of the country, which was well cultivated and planted chiefly with mulberry trees. About a mile from the city, we passed some low sand hills to the left, the minarets of the famous mosque of Selim began to appear; and, instead of the coarse tombstones of the Turkish burying grounds, which we had been hitherto accustomed to see, white marble monuments, with well-sculptured turbans, and ornamented with inscriptions in gilt characters, were crowded together by the road-side.

Near the confluence of the Tundscha and the Arda with

* We here fell in with the route of Busbequius, who speaks of this bridge, originally consisting of twenty arches, in the following terms :—

> ——— ac demum per præclarum Mustaphæ pontem Hebro transmisso venimus Hadrianopolim.
>
> Epist. i. p. 46.

† In the month of December there is sometimes a considerable fall of snow at Adrianople, which remains, however, only two or three days.

the Hebrus, and on the eastern bank of the former river, stands the first European capital of the Turkish empire, on a spot celebrated alike in the earliest traditions of antiquity, and the records of more authenticated and modern history. It was at the junction of these three rivers, that the infuriated Orestes purified himself from the contamination of the murder of his mother, and a town erected in commemoration of that event bore his name, and is frequently mentioned by the Byzantine authors. Here also, where the Hebrus first changes its course from the eastward, to descend to the south, the Emperor Adrian afterwards built the city that at a later period enjoyed the dignity of a metropolis in the province of Hæmi-montus, and still retains the appellation derived from its Roman founder. "By the pale and fainting light of the Byzantine "annals," says Gibbon, "we can discern that Amurath I. "subdued, without resistance, the whole province of "Romania, or Thrace, from the Hellespont to Mount "Hæmus, and the verge of the capital; and that Adrianople "was chosen for the royal seat of his government and "religion in Europe." Vol. XI., Chap. 64, p. 444.

The event here alluded to took place in the 761st year of the Hegira, (A. D. 1360,) and the Sultan who had the merit of making so important a conquest, enjoys also the glory of perfecting, if not of having established, the celebrated corps of the Janissaries. It would appear, however,

that the subjugation of this part of the ancient Roman Empire, was not so easily effected as might be inferred from the expressions of the eloquent author of the *Decline and Fall.* Amurath I. despatched Schabin, his Grand Vizier, to complete the conquest of Thrace, but it was not until after a long and vigorous resistance that Adrianople was taken by stratagem, and given up to plunder. The conduct of the despot of Servia, against whom the Sultan afterwards directed his arms, proves also, that the progress of the Ottoman conquests in Europe, was not an uninterrupted march of victory.

According to Froissart, who relates the story on the authority of the Armenian king, whom he had seen in France, Amurath sent, along with his ambassadors to the despot, a mule, laden with seed, intimating thereby, that the army with which he intended to invade his country, would be as numerous as the grains contained in the sack of millet. The Servian desired three days to deliberate on the proposals of the haughty Sultan, during which period he gave orders that all his poultry should be kept without food. At the expiration of that time, and, in the presence of the Turks, the seed was thrown to the hungry fowls, who devoured the whole in less than half an hour; upon which, the despot, turning to the ambassadors, made the following exclamation, thus related in the quaint language of Froissart: " Beaux " Seigneurs, avez vous veu comment le millet que vous

" m'avez apporté de par votre maistre en moy menaçant, " est devoré, et mis au neant par celle poulaille? et encore " en mangeroient-ils bien plus largement s'ils en avoient." " L'Amorabaquin," (by which name the Sultan was known in the west,) continued the spirited despot, " threatens me, " that he will send into my country, men at arms, without " number,—tell him from me, that I expect him; but no " sooner shall they be arrived, than they shall be devoured, " as the millet has been by this poultry." Nor was this an idle menace, for though the troops of Amurath were ultimately victorious, his first army, consisting of 60,000 men, was successfully repulsed, and the greater part put to death by the bravery of the Servians.

But the warlike tribes, the Bulgarians, Servians, Bosnians, and Albanians, inhabiting the country between the Danube and the Adriatic, were at length subdued by the valour of the Ottoman troops, and the Greeks were surrounded both in Asia and Europe, by the arms of the same hostile monarchy.

The prudence or generosity of Amurath postponed for awhile the easy conquest, and the humbled emperors were allowed to keep the shadow of sovereign authority, until, after the lapse of nearly a century, Mahomet II. planned, within the walls of Edrené *, the destruction of Constan-

* The modern Turkish name of the city is obviously a corruption of its ancient appellation.

tinople. Since that period, though it has lost the rank of a capital, Adrianople has been frequently chosen as the seat of government, by succeeding sultans, and was the favourite residence of Achmet III., Mahomet IV., and Mustafa: it is now the chief town of an extensive and important Pashalick.

We entered the city by a long narrow bridge, built over the Tundscha, which falls into the Mariza, at a little distance below the town to the south. Passing along narrow streets, darkened by wooden projections from the opposite houses, we stooped under a very low ruined brick archway in the wall of the fortress, and alighted at a châ̂n, crowded with Albanian troops of the Pasha. Our host, who proved to be one of the most civil Turks we had ever met with, cleared out a room for us, previously filled with grain, to which we ascended from a stable, that contained fifty horses, belonging to the soldiers quartered upon him. The Pasha, who had assembled his troops, as we were told, for the purpose of a general inspection, has the reputation of extreme severity, for which good quality he was probably removed from his former government of Widin, and promoted, about nine months ago, to his present Pashalick.

Widin is an important fortress on the right bank of the Danube, which was long in the possession of the famous rebel Passwan-Oglou, and after his death was retained by his successor Mollah Pasha, who had married his widow.

The present Sultan Mahmoud succeeded in obtaining the restitution of the town, on a promise that Mollah should be allowed to live unmolested, and retire with his wives and treasures. On hearing of this event, it is said that Ali, the famous Pasha of Jannina, exclaimed against the pusillanimous conduct of the governor of Widin, so different from his own spirit of sovereign independence. "He is an "eunuch," said the vizir of Albania, "without talent, who, "as I always predicted, will end by losing his life and his "city." The prophecy, however, of the enterprising Ali was not fulfilled, for contrary to the usual lot of deposed or abdicated pashas, Mollah lived undisturbed at Scutari, in front of the seraglio, till the year 1812, when he died of the plague.

But whatever may have been the character of the former governor of Widin, lenity forms no part of the disposition of his successor the present Pasha of Adrianople, though it may be urged in his behalf, that it is not without reason, that he has adopted measures of severity, for the Turks of Adrianople have as bad a reputation as those of the islands of Egripo or Crete; but, since the Russian war, it has been observed that they have become less insolent and overbearing.

The population of the city is now estimated at something less than 90,000, of which one-third may be accounted Turks, the rest being Greeks, Armenians, and Jews; but

the number of its inhabitants, and the extent of its commerce, have been greatly diminished by the plague of four years ago, and the disturbances and depredations committed by robbers, before the appointment of the present pasha. The two annual fairs which were held in the neighbourhood, to which Russians with furs, and Germans with cloth, were in the habit of resorting, no longer exist; still, however, Adrianople remains a place of considerable trade, consisting chiefly in its exports of raw silk, and the colouring substance used as a yellow dye, known generally by the name of grains d'Avignon*. There is also so great a demand for the manufactured goods of England, that the appointment of a British consul† at Adrianople has been resolved upon by the Levant Company. That part of the town called the Fortress, surrounded by a ruined wall, with here and there a dilapidated tower, is the chief residence of the Franks and Greeks. We could hear of no remains of antiquity, except the bust of the emperor Adrian, of whose existence every one seemed certain, though its precise situation could be pointed out by nobody.

But the mosque of Selim and the bazaar of Ali Pasha are the pride of Adrianople, and merit the attention of

* The Avignon Berry is the fruit of a species of lycium, less than a pea, of a greenish yellow colour, and an astringent bitter taste.

† The gentleman, nominated to this post, is supposed to have perished on his passage from Marseilles to Constantinople.

every traveller. We paid a sequin to be permitted to ascend to the top of one of the four minarets of the mosque, which are fluted and of a very elegant construction. Three spiral staircases, winding round each other, separately conduct to the three different galleries of the minaret, to the highest of which you mount by three hundred and seventy-seven steps. On our descent we were permitted, on condition of taking off our shoes, to enter the interior of the mosque* itself. From the hasty view we took of it, (for we were rather hurried through than allowed to make a very minute examination), I could only recollect the following particulars. The floor was covered with carpets, many lamps and ostrich eggs were suspended from the ceiling of the immense dome. In several recesses, similar to the side chapels to be observed in large cathedrals, devout Turks were reading or praying. On the walls of the interior were inscriptions in Turkish characters; on one side of the building stood an elevated chair or pulpit, to which a very narrow and steep flight of steps conducted. In the centre of the mosque was a spring surrounded by a circular screen, and we were invited to apply our mouths to the top of the marble fountain, to imbibe the sacred water which

* It has become more difficult now to see the interior of Turkish mosques than it formerly was, and is a privilege granted to an ambassador and his suite only, after an audience. As this is an event of rare occurrence, we were not fortunate enough, during our stay at Constantinople, to enter the celebrated St. Sophia.

did not jet out, but merely rose to the brim. Struck with the prodigious number of windows around me, I was attempting to count them, when our guide hastily intimated to us that it was time to withdraw. The French consul, who had the kindness to accompany us on this occasion, explained this circumstance, by telling us that it was considered a bad omen among the Turks to allow a Christian to make such a calculation, which, however, he had once made, and found to be nine hundred and ninety-nine. Several boys, apparently employed in keeping clean the interior of the mosque, beset us and greedily demanded a *backshish*, or present. The exterior court of the mosque is paved with large slabs of white marble, and the antique columns of the cloisters built round it are of various orders and dimensions, but all of the most costly materials, either Verde Antico, Egyptian granite, or Cipollino marble. Near the building is a college of dervishes.

From the mosque of Selim, which is reported to be one of the largest and most beautiful Mohammedan temples in the world, we walked to the famous bazaar of Ali Pacha. It is a brick building, vaulted with arches consisting of alternate red and white bricks; a gate at each extremity, and four lateral ones, form so many entrances, and its length is about three hundred * paces. The coup-d'œil offered by

* Lady Mary Wortley Montagu greatly exaggerates the dimensions of this bazaar, when she asserts that it is half a mile long.

the entire length of the bazaar of Ali is more striking than any thing I afterwards witnessed at the Bizesteins of Constantinople; and my companion was of opinion that it far exceeded any buildings of a similar description that he had seen at Cairo.

It is allotted to the more precious commodities, such as jewellery, shawls, muslin, *&c.* In another part of the town we visited a bazaar appropriated to tanners.

As Adrianople is not in the direct road from Buchorest to Constantinople, the service of the post ceases here, and we were consequently obliged to agree with our Turkish host for ten horses to take us all the way to the capital. The time to be employed in the journey was to be four days, and we were to pay thirty piastres for each horse. A courier would have performed the distance in two days and a half, but the baggage-horses with which we travelled necessarily impeded the rapidity of our movements.

*Monday, Feb.* 2. Sepulchral monuments of white marble* many of which were covered with ornamented canopies of the same material, and all having a more splendid appearance than any we had hitherto seen, lined the road on each side for a considerable distance, as we turned our backs on the ancient capital of Amurath. The

* The white marble, of which there is a great profusion both here and at Constantinople, is brought from quarries in the island of Marmora, antiently the Proconnesus, in the Propontis.

country before us assumed the appearance of a brown and barren heath, upon whose surface the grey plover was flying in numerous flocks. After a ride of four hours we halted at Hafsa, where was formerly a great caravanserai built by Mahomet Bassha. The gateway, the exterior walls, and the mosque, which was always a necessary appendage to these establishments, are standing, but the inside of the court is disfigured by the present mean coffee-house, and a few wretched wooden sheds. In the room allotted us as our sleeping apartment, the light, the rain, and the wind, were equally admitted by the chimney; and, as firewood is extremely scarce here, we passed a miserable evening over a charcoal *mangal*, ruminating on the comforts of the hospitable châns, that formerly abounded in this part of the Turkish empire.

In these public edifices, says Busbequius, who is giving an account of one in which he lodged on his route from Vienna to Constantinople, the stranger, whether Mussulman, Christian, or Jew, Basshaw, Sangiac, or the poorest traveller, was entertained at free cost, during the space of three days. From his description of the Caranvanserai at Nissa, and the remains of this at Hafsa, it is probable these buildings were all of similar construction. "The form," says he, "is "thus. It is a large edifice, that has more of length than "breadth; in the midst of it there is a kind of yard for the "placing of carriages, camels, mules, and waggons. This

RUINED CARAVANSERAI, HAFSA.

" yard is compassed about with a wall about three feet " high, which joins, and is, as it were, built in the outward " wall that encloses the whole building; the top of this " inner wall is plain and level, and is about four feet broad. " Here the Turks lodge, here they sup, and here is all the " kitchen which they have (for in the ambient wall, before " spoken of, there are ever and anon some hearths built*)," *&c. &c.* At Hafsa, in the exterior wall the hearths are distinctly visible, still blackened by the smoke of the former fires.

*Feb.* 3. The *Notia*, or south-west wind, blew strongly upon us as we traversed the brown heath, that brought us, at the end of four hours, to Eski Baba, a small town with a handsome mosque and a very neat bridge. An uninteresting tract, bounded to the right and left, but at a great distance, by two chains of mountains covered with snow, extends from hence to Csatal Borgas, which we entered over a good stone bridge †.

*Feb.* 4. Hence to Chourli is sixteen hours. The wind and rain accompanied us also to-day across the same brown waste, on which we saw several flocks of wild geese, that at a distance we mistook for bustards. When we were two

* Translation of the Travels of Busbequius into Turkey. Ep. i. p. 21.

† The minarets of the mosque of Selim at Adrianople, the walls of the chân at Hafsa, and the various bridges we crossed on our road, are all built of the same kind of cellular limestone, abounding in geodes, lined with minute crystals of calcareous spar.

hours from Chourli, our Surugees pointed out to us the spot where, twelve years ago, two English travellers and their Tartar were murdered by some robbers. An eagle rose from the grave on our approach. At present, the necessary severity of the Pasha of Adrianople has so greatly intimidated these lawless banditti, that travelling is become much less dangerous. The town of Chourli is situated on a high bank, its streets paved, and houses built of basalt. Adjoining the stable where were our horses, we occupied a small room, into which a sombre light was admitted through windows formed, (as is the general custom in this country) of paper: should the person from within have occasion to see any exterior object, he must apply his eye to a small triangular bit of glass stuck into the corner of one of the frames.

*Feb.* 5. Having travelled two hours in the morning, we first caught a glimpse of the sea of Marmora, and the lofty mountains of the island of Proconnesus, and, in six hours more, over a boggy stiff clay, passing by several barrows, we reached the beautiful town of Selivria, built on the western side of a hilly promontory. As I have so frequently mentioned the occurrence of tumuli on our route, a few observations on that subject may, perhaps, not be considered an uninteresting digression.

We had traced these artificial mounds of earth from the neighbourhood of the Valdai Mountains, situated to the

north of Moscow, across the steppe between the Boug and the Dnieper, in Bulgaria and Rumelia; and as we approached the Propontis, it required but a little stretch of the imagination to descry the tombs of Ajax and Achilles on the shores of the Hellespont, the Throsmos, and the various other tumuli scattered over the surface of the plains of Troy. Monuments of this description are found in every country of Europe, in many parts of Asia, Africa, and even in America; and, as far as research has hitherto gone, they appear generally to have been destined to cover and protect the ashes, weapons, and ornaments of the dead :— Of the truth of this assertion the barrows of Cornwall, the cairns of Ireland and Scotland, the tumuli of Greece, and the pyramids of Egypt, afford so many examples.

In England, urns, swords, spear-heads, shields, armillæ, daggers, knives, battle-axes, have been found in the barrows of heroes; in those appropriated to the remains of females, gems, bracelets, beads, gold and silver buckles and broaches, ornamented with precious stones, together with several magical instruments. I am informed by my friend Mr. Dodwell, (so well known for his diligent and successful researches in Greece), that, some years ago, a large tumulus of earth on the left of the road leading from Athens to the Piræus, at the entrance of the olive grove, was excavated, and found to contain broken vases, plates of terra cotta, and bones of birds and fish, evidently the

fragments of the funereal feast, the Nekrodeipnon of the ancients. This barrow has been generally supposed to be the sepulchre of the amazon Antiope; but without recurring to fabulous ages, it is far more likely to have been the μνημα κενον, or cenotaph of Euripides; and the circumstance of no human bones being found in it, is a further corroboration of that opinion.

In the tumulus attributed to Achilles on the Sigæan promontory, were found fragments of terra cotta vases, pieces of charcoal, and calcined bones, besides portions of a small statue of bronze, of which the following is a description:—

" Elle était portée sur le plateau scutiforme dont j'ai " parlé, et ce plateau était soutenu par deux petits chevaux " dans le côté desquels il était implanté.

" La statue, jointe au piédestal qui la soutenait, a dix " pouces de hauteur. Les chevaux sont lourds et mal faits. " Ils portaient chacun un guerrier dont il ne reste plus que " la partie inférieure. Le visage de la figure est détruit; " on distingue encore une partie du sein; les pieds sont " en avant l'un de l'autre et sur deux lignes parallèles, " comme aux statues égyptiennes. Les symboles qui " surchargent sa tête et ses épaules, sont la partie la mieux " conservée. Deux sphinx placés sur les avant-bras élèvent " leur tête au niveau de sa coiffure *ornée d'une feuille de lotus*, " au-dessus de laquelle on voit deux lions ou deux sphinx.

" On distingue sur son épaule une chemise d'un tissu

" dont les fils semblent frisés à peu près comme les chemises
" de soie que les femmes portent encore dans tout l'Orient.
" Elle est vêtue d'une robe avec un grand nombre de plis
" perpendiculaires; les pans en sont relevés sur les cuisses,
" et les bords sont par-tout contournés suivant la disposition
" des plis et avec la plus grande uniformité. De son bras
" gauche, elle soutient sa robe, qu'elle saisit avec le pouce
" et l'index."

M. Le Chevalier, from whom I have made this extract, concludes that the statue was that of the goddess Minerva, who had a temple in the citadel of Troy.—*Voyage de la Troade*, Vol. ii. p. 320.

In the pyramid of Cephernes, which the sagacity and enterprise of M. Belzoni has lately succeeded in opening, a granite sarcophagus was discovered, containing bones, some of which have been proved to be those of the Egyptian god Apis, though it is not improbable others will hereafter be detected, that have belonged to the reputed builder of the monument. But, perhaps, the barrows we had passed on our route from Moscow to the sea of Marmora may be conceived to have more affinity with those that have been described as existing in the wilds of Siberia.

In a paper inserted in the second volume of the *Archæologia*, an account is given of the opening, by order of the Russian government, of some tumuli of Tartarian origin, in Siberia, near Tomsky, a town situated on the river Tom, which falls into the Oby.

" The barrow of the largest size was opened. After " removing a very deep covering of earth and stones, the " workmen came to three vaults, constructed of stones of " rude workmanship. That wherein the prince was depo- " sited, which was in the centre of the largest of the three, " was easily distinguished by the sword, spear, bow, " quiver, and arrow, which lay beside him. In the vault " beyond him, towards which his feet lay, were his horse, " bridle, saddle, and stirrups. The body of the prince lay " in a reclining posture, upon a sheet of pure gold, ex- " tending from head to foot, and another sheet of gold, of " the like dimensions, was spread over him. He was " wrapt in a rich mantle, bordered with gold, and studded " with rubies and emeralds. His head, neck, breast, and " arms naked, and without any ornament. In the lesser " vault lay the princess, distinguished by her female orna- " ments. She was placed reclining against the wall, with " a gold chain of many links, set with rubies, round her " neck, and gold bracelets round her arms. The head, " breast, and arms, were naked. The body was covered " with a rich robe, but without any border of jewels, and " was laid on a sheet of fine gold, and covered over with " another. The four sheets of gold weighed forty pounds. " The robes of both looked fair and complete; but, upon " touching, crumbled into dust. Many more of the " tumuli were opened, but this was the most remarkable. " In the others, a great variety of curious articles was

" found,—rings, amulets, idols, a copper tripod, figures " of lions, leopards, *&c.*, in silver; but in none was there " any piece of coin whatever," *&c. &c.*

*Archæologia*, Vol. II., p. 223.

A few columns of marble and some Corinthian capitals lying on the ground in the streets are all the remains of the ancient town of Selymbria*, where we feasted on excellent *Scombri*, or mackerel, just caught in the sea of Marmora.

The scenery on the European side is tame, brown, and ugly, but looking over the Propontis towards the opposite coast of Asia, the fine range of Mount Olympus formed a noble object, as we rode for six hours over the rocky country towards Buyuk-Chekmedjie, which we entered by a long straggling bridge.

*Feb.* 6. Mounting a steep hill that overhangs the town where we slept, and having passed a deep ravine, we proceeded over a dull stony tract, with here and there a few cypress or sycamore trees, until, at length, we descried the minarets of the mighty Stamboul. We left the gate of Adrianople on our right, and rode through an immense burying-ground, till we reached the upper extremity of the Golden Horn, where we took boats, and landed at Pera.

A residence of two months in Constantinople gave us sufficient opportunity to examine the curiosities of that city.

* The coast near Selivria consists of beds of sandstone, clay, and greenstone, beyond, towards the East, the rocks are amygdaloid and sand stone.

described perhaps more minutely and more frequently than those of any other capital in Europe. The remains of antiquity are neither very numerous, nor of much interest, especially if compared with the monuments to be seen in other cities of Greece and Asia Minor; but the situation of the capital of the Ottoman Empire, when viewed, for instance, from the summit of the tower of Galata, is beyond all conception superb. The city itself, with the elegant minarets of its innumerable mosques, the sea of Marmora, the lofty range of the chain of Mount Olympus, the canal of the Bosphorus, and the populous Asiatic town of Scutari, combine to form a picture familiar to many from panoramic representation, but otherwise of such splendid magnificence, as to baffle all powers of description. During our stay, we had almost daily occasions of witnessing considerable conflagrations *, as well as most of the extraordinary sights that usually attract the attention of the stranger; amongst others the exposure of a dead body in the streets, naked and decapitated, with the head placed in the ignominious position that characterizes the trunk of a *rayah*. It lay not very distant from our hotel, during three days, guarded

* Two days before my departure the palace of the Swedish mission was burnt to the ground: but it will be matter of congratulation to every antiquarian to learn that the very extensive cabinet of medals belonging to the minister of that nation, as well as his curious Egyptian antiquities, were saved; though the regret of Count Palin himself was not to be expressed at the loss of an invaluable manuscript, relating to the import of hieroglyphics, upon which he had been employed the greatest part of his life.

by some janissaries, who were appointed to keep the numerous ravenous dogs that prowl about from devouring the carcass. A thousand piastres, we were told, was the sum paid by the friends for permission to bury the body, otherwise it would have been thrown into the sea. As no audience was given to any European minister during our stay, we were deprived of the opportunity of being present at that ceremony, though we saw the still-more unusual procession of a Persian ambassador, during which an elephant was admitted into the inner court of the seraglio, notwithstanding the superstitious fears of the Turks with regard to these animals.

The preceding autumn we had heard at Vienna most exaggerated accounts of the devastation of the plague in the city of Constantinople, occasioned chiefly by the extraordinary circumstance of a death from that cause in a Frank family. One of the children of the Austrian internuncio had caught, it was said, the infection from a Greek doctor, and the malady proved fatal. But during our residence, and even for several months previous, accidents from the plague were of very rare occurrence.

As I have mentioned the subject of plague, though I was myself fortunate enough to be at Constantinople during a period of comparative health, and consequently have little or no experience of the treatment of that disease, I cannot refrain from stating a few of the facts that have come under

my own observation, and which would seem to militate against the doctrines contained in a recent work *, having for its object the abolition of the laws and regulations of quarantine. It is not my intention, nor would this be a proper opportunity, to enter upon a minute inquiry into the nature and treatment of the plague, or to attempt to follow the author of the book alluded to, in the various reasonings by which he endeavours to establish his hypothesis; but the novelty of his opinions, the notice they have attracted, and the sanction they appear partially to have received, may perhaps excuse my incidentally mentioning a few of the more obvious inferences suggested by a perusal of his publication.

According to that author, the effect of quarantine is to increase mortality, because it obliges people to remain exposed to the influence of the pestiferous atmosphere, and because it restricts access to the means of subsistence, as it is well known that scarcity is the most powerful auxiliary cause of plague †. But in the next paragraph he asserts, that it rarely happens that an affluent native, at least among the Turkish population, and very rarely indeed that an Englishman, is affected with plague in the Levant.

* Results of an Investigation respecting Epidemic and Pestilential Diseases; including Researches in the Levant concerning the Plague. By Charles Maclean, M. D. &c.

† Suggestions for the Prevention and Mitigation of Epidemic and Pestilential Diseases, comprehending the Abolition of Quarantines, &c. By Charles Maclean, M. D., &c. &c. *Vide* Preface p. 4.

There is no question that the fact is as it is here stated, but what is its natural explanation? the affluent native takes precaution, and the Englishman, together with all other Franks, uniformly shuts himself up, abstaining from all communication with the rest of the inhabitants. Plague, according to this author, is produced by a deteriorated state of the atmosphere, acting on bodies already weakened by scarcity. But those who confine themselves breathe the same atmosphere with those who go about; and the latter may even reasonably be supposed to have a more ready access to articles of food, and consequently to be less exposed to the debilitating effects of scanty nourishment, than their more prudent neighbours who have voluntarily consigned themselves to temporary seclusion. The only difference in their condition which can account for these different results is, that contact is rigidly avoided in the one case, and free intercourse permitted in the other.

But Dr. Maclean goes on to say, that no diseases, except small-pox and measles, perhaps, are propagated by contagion; that typhus, for instance, is as incapable of propagating itself as gout or dropsy, and "that epidemic "diseases never depend on contagion*."

"Nor will it fail to be regarded," he observes, "as a "singular phenomenon, that the Turkish government "alone, placed in the very focus of pestilence, should

* *Suggestions, &c.*, p. 22.

" have had the wisdom and forbearance, as I shall shew " it to be, to reject those fatal institutions, even when they " were strongly urged to adopt them by a neighbouring " power. By some persons, who have considered the " subject superficially, the frequent recurrence of plague " in Turkey has been most absurdly imputed to the want " of these establishments; since it will be found, that " wherever they have been adopted, instead of preventing, " they have but increased, mortality, and aggravated " disease. The establishments, to which I here more " particularly allude, are quarantines and lazarettos *." Such are the assertions of Dr. Maclean. But what is the real state of the case; in the Levant, and in the countries on the coast of Africa, where either no precautions are taken, or, as in some parts of Turkey, are but very imperfectly attempted, the plague constantly exists; whereas in places where lazarettos are established, the disease either never shews itself, or may be traced to an infringement of the laws of quarantine.

In proof of the efficacy of these regulations, I was informed, during my residence in the lazaretto at Marseilles, that since the great plague which afflicted that city in 1720, the disease had twice raged among the persons performing quarantine, without penetrating into the town, separated only by some high walls from the seat of pestilence.

* *Suggestions, &c.*, p. 20.

But the assertion so confidently made above, that, in the Levant, there is no attempt made at enforcing the restrictions of quarantine, is not quite correct, as the following facts will sufficiently demonstrate. On my return from Constantinople, on board a merchantman bound to Marseilles, we were driven by stress of weather into the port of Syra, opposite the classical island of Delos; and when we attempted to go on shore, the Greek, who had assumed the title of English vice-consul, with several of the inhabitants, came down to the water's edge, and, on hearing whence we came, positively refused us permission to land. We were in want of bread and some other articles of food, and the prospect of the small sum of money we might be induced to lay out in that miserable and almost barren island, might be supposed to have had some weight with the natives, in inducing them to relax the severity of their laws; but we were unable to persuade them, and sailed from the port two days after, without having had the least communication.

In the year 1812, I was prevented also from landing in the island of Hydra, in the Archipelago; because the vessel in which I sailed had touched at Scio, and been off the coast of Troy, in the vicinity of Smyrna, where the plague existed.

Mr. Legh also asserts *, that on his return down the

* *Journey in Egypt, &c.*

Nile, in the year 1813, the Pasha of Cairo, where the plague was raging with great violence, had shut himself up in a fortress opposite Boulac, and would suffer no boats to sail on the western side of the river, near his residence. The same traveller informs me also, that, while he and his party were shut up at Rosetta, a quarantine had been established at Alexandria, by the order of the Pasha of Cairo, and Albanian soldiers appointed to see the regulations enforced. At the beginning of this experiment, the Albanians executed their duty in a very negligent and insufficient manner, visiting and smoking with the merchants and passengers confined in the lazaretto, until the deaths of several of those who had caught the plague, rendered them more cautious.

My friend, Mr. Dodwell, who travelled in Greece in 1805, has related to me an attempt at the establishment of a quarantine on the part of the Turks, which is, perhaps, still more striking. In the spring of the year above mentioned, he arrived at Livadia in Bœotia, where it was reported that some accidents from the plague had taken place, which, however, proved, upon inquiry, not to be the case. On his quitting that town for Thebes, he was furnished with a bill of health, not written in very choice Italian, but which is a document of some curiosity, and he has obligingly permitted me to copy it:—

" In absenza del nobile Sig^r. Giovañi Stamu Logoteti
" mio principale, faccio fede giurata, che in questo Paese
" di Livadia, si gode, grazie à Dio Sig^e. ottima e perfetta
" salute, e per dover partire in pochi momenti l' Illmõ,
" Sig^r. Dodwell, viaggiatore Inglese per Atene, avendo
" seco Firmano della sublime Porta Ottomana, rillascio
" al med^mo la presente in onor della verità, e mi sotto-
" scrivo —Livadia, 8 Marzo, 1805.

" Per Gio^v Logoteti-Gerasimo Millonà con
" mio giuramento."

From Thebes, where he staid a few days, he continued his route to Athens, and arrived at the termination of the Eleusinian plain, at the mystic gap, through which passed the sacred road that led from the city of Cecrops to the temple of Ceres.

Here he was stopped by a guard of a dozen Albanians, who were smoking and listlessly reclining on the ground, amongst the ruins of the temple of Venus, (Αφροδιτη φιλη), and informed, when he had made known that he came from Thebes, that he must return; for it was understood that the plague raged in that city, and the Waivode of Athens had, in consequence, given orders, that no traveller should be permitted to pass the defile occupied by the soldiers. Mr. Dodwell being conscious that he had taken every precaution to avoid infection during his residence at

Thebes, where, as it appeared afterwards, no plague did actually exist, desired his guides, with the baggage, to wind slowly round a projecting rock, that hid them from the view of the Albanians, under the pretext of watering their horses at a stream, which was in the neighbourhood. He himself entered into a parley with the soldiers, and, watching an opportunity when their attention was engaged in some other manner, put spurs to his horse and gallopped off. Fortunately he escaped pursuit from the unexpected rapidity of his flight, and overtook his guides as they reached the gate of Athens. A new difficulty arose, for guards were placed here also to prevent his entrance, and the traveller was told he must take up his abode in a cave near the Pnyx; where, after a quarantine of ten days, should his party appear to be healthy, he would be permitted to come into the city. As this was the second visit of Mr. Dodwell to Athens, he sent for his former acquaintance, Il Sig^re^ Logotheti, who acted as English vice-consul; and, on his arrival, they eagerly embraced.

This hasty expression of friendship on the part of the vice-consul had compromised him, and rendered him also liable to the purification of a quarantine; to avoid which, he strongly insisted on the groundless report of the existence of the plague at Thebes, and ultimately succeeded in negotiating with the Waivode, and obtaining

permission for the whole party to enter the city. It will be readily granted that the regulations above mentioned are imperfectly observed, and inadequate to ensure the health and security of the natives; but still their existence proves, that the Turks themselves admit the propriety of the principle of non-communication.

If it be asked, why these measures of precaution, observed in other parts of the Ottoman empire, are not adopted in the capital itself, it may be answered, that the immense population of the city of Constantinople, together with its feeble and inefficient administration of police, would render the attempt almost impracticable. These considerations are, perhaps, the most obvious; but Dr. Maclean furnishes us with another argument still more satisfactory.

"The Turkish government," says he, "has cogent "reasons for withholding their support from measures "having for their object to diminish the devastation of "the plague." "The Sultan, it is notorious, inherits a "large proportion of the property of every man that dies; "when all the members of a family are carried off by "the plague, he inherits the whole of their property." "The plague, of 1813, is said to have filled the public "treasury to such a degree, that it still continues rich. "The immediate advantage which the Sultan thus derives "from the deaths of his subjects, as their heir, appears

" completely to absorb all considerations of the more " remote interest which he possesses in their lives, as a " monarch *."

It would be difficult to imagine a statement, the truth of which is probably in a great measure undeniable, that more clearly demonstrates the humanity, wisdom, and enlightened views, which have suggested and enforce the adoption of the quarantine laws of civilized Europe, contrasted as they are, in this instance, with the sordid and misguided measures of Turkish policy.

Another of the chief arguments, employed by Dr. Maclean against the establishment of quarantine laws in this country, is, that they are injurious to commerce; that the ships employed in the Levant trade are compelled to lose one-third of their time, without an object, at Stangate Creek; and, he much fears, that, in the event of the continuance of peace between France and England, the commerce of the former country will so greatly increase, as almost to effect the entire annihilation of that of the latter.

This fatal consequence, indeed, he presumes, would have taken place long ago, had it not been for the circumstances of the late war, that crippled so much the trade of France. What is to be the immediate cause of this dangerous rivalship, does not sufficiently appear; for surely it cannot be occasioned by the comparative lenity of

* *Results of an Investigation, &c.*, pp. 77, 78, 79, vol. ii.

the quarantine laws in France; since, at Marseilles, the only port, I believe, into which vessels from the Levant are admitted, these regulations are enforced with a degree of rigour, that certainly equals, if it does not exceed, that of any other place in the world. As a proof of it, I may state, that some months ago, in consequence of an infringement of the laws of quarantine at Malta, all vessels coming from that island with clean bills of health, to the port of Marseilles, were subject to a quarantine of fifteen days. The same, or still greater severity, was practised in Italy, where Genoa and Leghorn were the only ports open to ships from the Levant. In Sicily there was no port allotted to them, nor any in Spain, but vessels arriving at Tarragona, for instance, laden with corn, were not allowed to anchor in the harbour, but peremptorily ordered to proceed to Port Mahon; from whence, having performed their quarantine, they were permitted to return and discharge their cargoes.

Dr. Maclean has not, however, confined himself to opinions of a purely speculative nature, having resolved, while in the Levant, with a zeal truly laudable, to put them to the test of experience. On his arrival at Constantinople he determined to devote himself to the care of the sick, who were sent to the pest hospital, belonging to the Greeks, situated near the Seven Towers. This establishment stands, as he states, near a morass, over which the north-east

wind, which frequently prevails in the autumnal, or pestilential season, charged with the noxious exhalations, by which it is loaded in its passage, blows directly *. In addition to this unhealthy situation of the hospital, he began his experiments under unfavourable auspices. The Reis Effendi, it is true, extolled his humanity †; and one of the governors, or directors, of the Greek hospital, where he took up his abode, was overflowing with professions, and promised him every accommodation he could desire ‡; yet, as every individual, or family, that might be preserved in consequence of his discoveries, would operate a deduction of so much from the usual revenue of the Sultan, ihs interests would be directly injured by the success of his endeavours §. The Porte, however, had good reason to calculate on the failure of his attempt; as, up to that time, no individual, with the exception of Dr. Valli, who had volunteered his services in the pest hospitals, had survived the experiment. Notwithstanding these disheartening circumstances, Dr. Maclean entered the hospital on the 15th of August, 1815, and exerted himself with most exemplary zeal in the treatment of the sick who were sent thither. He had to contend, in this arduous undertaking, with difficulties of no ordinary magnitude; for, besides the malignant nature of the disease, "the *papa* and grammatiké," (Greeks employed

* *Results of an Investigation, &c.*, p. 68.

† Ibid., p. 72. ‡ Ibid., p. 70. § Ibid., p. 81.

in the hospital), were suspected by him of hastening the death of some of his patients, who were doing well, with the design of proving that the plague was not to be cured *. They wished also to discredit his practice, by sending the worst cases into the hospital they could procure. But until the 20th of August, five days after his arrival in the hospital, his attentions were unremitting, when he was himself seized with the symptoms of the plague. In marking this event in his diary, the form in which Dr. Maclean kept his observations, he seems to have forgotten entirely the opinions expressed by him on another occasion.—" The " plague," says he, " is capable, by a mode of treatment " which I shall indicate, of being cured in the proportion " of, at least, *four cases out of five*, of those presented on " or before the third day of the disease, in a pestilence of " ordinary severity †." But when he, himself, falls a victim, the confident speculations of the physician, in the enjoyment of health, yield immediately to the gloomy forebodings of the patient, and he registers the day of attack in these words :

" *Sunday, August* 20. I was now in a situation sufficiently " embarrassing; seized with a malady, in *nine cases out* " *of ten fatal*," &c. &c. ‡

* *Results of an Investigation, &c.*, p. 103.

† *Suggestions, &c.*, p. 24.

‡ *Results of an Investigation, &c.*, p. 112.

Dr. Maclean had entered the hospital with " a sufficient " reliance upon his experience of the cure of acute diseases, " not to allow his mind to be disturbed by considerations " which might otherwise have unfavourably affected it * ;" and yet, on the second day after the attack, he intimates to M. Pisani, his eager desire to escape from the hospital; and is naturally enough rather angry with the chief dragoman of the English embassy, that he does not put off an excursion of pleasure to his country-seat, at Buyukderé, for the more urgent business of procuring him immediate accommodation in some house in Pera, where he might perform his quarantine.

The symptoms, with which Dr. Maclean was affected, appear to have been very mild; the first access of fever was announced by a momentary vomiting, which never recurred, and shortly afterwards the usual glandular swellings were perceived; but the derangement of his health was, upon the whole, so slight, as only to interrupt, for one entire day, his benevolent exertions in favour of his fellow-sufferers in the hospital. It is not possible, therefore, to conceive a case more favourable for the exercise of his professional skill, than that which presented itself in his own person; it was one of " very ordinary severity," and the Physician must have been aware of its immediate approach. The persons in the hospital were not made acquainted with

* *Results of an Investigation, &c.*, p. 89.

the nature of his complaint for several days; but, at length, Dr. Maclean resolved to communicate it to the Greek, who had been nominated to attend him as an interpreter. This man appears to have been a troublesome fellow, very unfit for such an office, and to have possessed no other recommendation for that dangerous appointment, in the estimation of his employer, except that "he was a daily "and a standing proof of the non-contagious nature of "the disease*." Yet, such was his perverseness, that notwithstanding this enviable immunity, he received the intelligence of the malady of his superior "with a ludicrous "mixture of horror and exultation;" "and it had the "desired effect," adds Dr. Maclean, who was weary of his impertinent intrusion, "of making him keep at a greater "distance." Why this precaution should be stated to have been adopted by one who is, at the same time, represented to have been unsusceptible of contagion, it would not be very easy to determine.

On the 31st of August Dr. Maclean quitted the hospital, and took up the quarters provided for him in Pera.

Such is a general outline of the opinions detailed at length in the voluminous work, entitled, *Results of an Investigation*, &c. &c.; and though the Public may, perhaps, hesitate in admitting the force of some of the arguments contained in that treatise, no one can refuse his approbation

* *Results of an Investigation, &c.*, p. 120. vol. ii.

of the patriotism of the author, who was induced to make known the imperfect statements of his theory in the pamphlet, that was the precursor of his great work, at a period when he conceived "the times were portentous, "discontent and scarcity to be abroad, and famine, with "its usual concomitant, pestilence, likely to follow*." The observations of Dr. Maclean himself, produced with the view of establishing the truth of his own novel doctrine, that plague is not contagious, appear to me to warrant the very opposite conclusion; and if any additional argument be required to decide the question against him, it may be found in his assertion, so confidently made, that typhus fever, also, is incapable of propagating itself by contagion: an assertion, which is directly at variance with the evidence afforded by the great increase of mortality that has recently occurred in the metropolis, arising, unquestionably, from the highly contagious nature of that disease.

But to return from this digression to the subject of the local scenery of Constantinople and its neighbourhood, I have only to add, that we made the usual excursions, to Scutari, to see the howling dervishes; and to Belgrade, Buyukderé, and the entrance into the Black Sea. On one occasion we went to the latter places in a *caique*, up the canal of the Bosphorus, to have a full view of the pic-

* *Suggestions*, p. 7.

turesque beauties of this celebrated strait; its windings, and numerous bays, the castles erected on the opposite European and Asiatic shores, and the countless kiosks, pavilions, or country-seats, of the Turks, Greeks, and Armenians, built close to the water's edge, form, altogether, a delightful picture; but the hilly coast on each side is rather of a tame, arid, and uninteresting character. Its name, perhaps, and ancient reputation, contribute not a little to increase the impression made on the mind of the stranger as he sails up the Thracian Bosphorus. The Cyanean Rocks, opposite the point called Fanaraki, are of the nature usually called volcanic, consisting of round, or angular, pieces of basalt, embedded in an argillaceous sort of matrix. We landed upon them, and ascended to the top to inspect the marble monument, called, by some, an altar of Apollo; by others, considered to be the base of a column erected to Pompey. The opposite coast of Asia is also volcanic, and described generally in these terms in the most recent work on the subject:—

" Toutes les roches dures, une seule exceptée (la calcaire
" saccaroïde, près la petite grotte de Kabakos) examinées
" au microscope, présentent les caractères les plus prononcés
" des matières volcaniques incontestables," *&c.**

On another day we rode to Buyukderé, over the stony

* *Voyage à l'Embouchure de la Mer-Noire, par M. le Comte Andreossy* — Paris, 1818.

barren tract to the north-east of Constantinople, and saw various sections of the transition rock, upon which the city itself is built, and which extends also to the coast of the Black Sea *.

My own observations terminate here. Obliged to return to England, I embarked on board a merchantman bound to Marseilles, where, on my arrival, I performed a tedious quarantine of thirty days; but my companion, Mr. Legh, pursued his route into Syria; and it is from the remarks he made on that journey, that I have been permitted to compose the narrative contained in the following Chapter.

* It is of tortuous strata of grey wacke, containing thick beds of blue transition limestone.

# CHAPTER IV.

## CONTENTS.

ARRIVAL AT JERUSALEM—MARCH OF THE PILGRIMS TO THE JORDAN—DIFFICULTIES OF PROCEEDING TO WADI MOOSA, OR THE VALLEY OF MOSES—HEBRON—SOUTHERN EXTREMITY OF THE DEAD SEA—KARRAC—PETRA—RETURN TO KARRAC—RABBATH-MOAB — MEDABA — CALLIRHOE, — HESBON — SALT — RABBATH-AMMON—JERRASCH—FORD OF THE JORDAN AT BETHSAN — TIBERIAS—MOUNT TABOR—NAZARETH—ACRE—TYRE—SIDON — DEYR-EL-KAMAR, THE RESIDENCE OF THE PRINCE OF THE DRUZES—THE VALLEY OF EL BEKAA, OR CŒLO-SYRIA—TO BALBEC—ACROSS THE ANTILIBANUS, TO DAMASCUS—PALMYRA —HOMS—HAMAH—ALEPPO—ROUTE ACROSS MOUNT TAURUS TO CONSTANTINOPLE.

# CHAPTER IV.

THE Greek vessel, on board of which I had engaged my passage, says Mr. Legh, had been detained for more than a fortnight, in the canal of the Bosphorus, by contrary winds; when the weather, at length, becoming more favourable, I sailed from Constantinople on the 15th of March.

I was provided with a ferman from the Porte, and accompanied by a Janissary, Mustafa, belonging to the English embassy, and a Greek servant, Nicolo, a native of the island of Corfou, whom I had hired at St. Petersburg. The Hydriote captain, to whom the vessel belonged, was bound to Tarsus, for corn; but, in consideration of a certain sum of money, he engaged to land me at Jaffa. After a tempestuous voyage of seventeen days, during which we touched at the island of Rhodes, and at the port of Larnica, in Cyprus, where, at the earnest request of a Greek priest, who came to pay me a visit, fifty pilgrims bound to Jerusalem, were taken on board, we reached Jaffa on the 2d of April. On my landing I assumed the Turkish dress, which I had purchased at Constantinople:

and, after a stay of two days, took the road to Jerusalem, distant about fourteen hours. The first night I slept at the convent of Rama, and, on the following day, entered Jerusalem. On my reaching the convent of Terra Santa, where I was to take up my lodgings, I had the pleasure of finding Mr. Bankes; and, in a few days, our party was increased by the arrival of the Honble. Captain Irby and Captain Mangles, both of the Royal Navy, who had been absent for a short time to visit Bethlehem. These three travellers had just returned from an unsuccessful attempt to penetrate by the north and eastern coast of the Dead Sea to Wadi Moosa*, the supposed site of Petra. They had crossed the Jordan, and entered into a negotiation with the powerful tribe of the Benesakar† Arabs, who, for a reward of fifteen hundred piastres, had engaged to conduct them to Wadi Moosa; but, on the receipt of the money, were found unable to perform their promise, and the travellers, after suffering great privations from the want of food, effected a most masterly retreat from Salt, escaped the tents of their treacherous guides, re-crossed the Jordan, and returned to Jerusalem. Though their first attempt had failed, they were not to be disheartened by this disappointment; and having proposed to myself to join their party on a second endeavour, I eagerly embraced an offer that promised so much interesting discovery.

* The Valley of Moses. † Sons of a tree.

Mr. Bankes had long meditated this journey, and an idea may be formed of the almost insurmountable difficulties that seemed to prevent its accomplishment, from the enumeration of the objections that were started at Constantinople, when he applied for a ferman, in which these distant places were to be inserted. Karrac and Wadi Moosa were said not to be in the dominions of the Grand Seignior; and when the point was strongly urged by the British Minister, Mr. Bankes was referred by the Porte to the Pasha of Damascus, and by him to the Moosillim, or Governor, of Jerusalem. The latter desired him to apply to Abou-Nabout*, the Governor of Jaffa, of whom the Bedoueen Arabs, on the eastern side of the Dead Sea, were said to be in great fear, as he has, in some measure, the command of the annual provisions of corn, which they draw from Egypt. But the Governor of Jaffa, to whom we all now had recourse, declined interfering in the business, as he could not be answerable for our safety; we were thus left entirely to our own resources. We remained at Jerusalem about a month, using all our endeavours to discover the means of prosecuting our journey, and to persuade the Moosillim to facilitate our views, as far as lay in his power; and from him we obtained, at last, a promise, that he would write to the Sheikh of Hebron, and send also for the Sheikh of

* The father of the Stick.

Karrac. We staid at Jerusalem in the expectation of the performance of these promises, and employed our time in examining the curiosities of the city and neighbourhood. During this period of delay, Lord and Lady Belmore, and Captain Corry, arrived; and it is not a little singular, that accident should have brought together so many English travellers, all of whom had been in Nubia, and every one, except myself, as far as the second cataract.

Lord Belmore and his party, consisting of more than twenty persons, had crossed the desert from Cairo to Jaffa; an enterprise, which, considering the number of females and children in the caravan, was one of no ordinary difficulty. We might esteem ourselves lucky in being at Jerusalem during Easter, and in having an opportunity of witnessing the ridiculous farce of the sacred fire, and the other superstitious ceremonies of the holy week, of which Maundrell has given so faithful and lively a description *. We also accompanied the pilgrims to the Jordan; they amounted to about six thousand, and went under the protection of the Moosillim, with a strong escort of Albanians, Dalhis †, and the motley troops of the Arab chief, Abou-Gosha ‡, who receives the *gaphar*, or tribute,

* Vide. *A Journey from Aleppo to Jerusalem*, p. 93.

† Turkish cavalry, chiefly natives of Latichea, Hamah, and Homs, and distinguished from Spahis, by wearing a sort of Persian cap instead of a turban.

‡ The father of the passage.

paid by the Christians on their way from Jaffa to Jerusalem. The group of pilgrims, consisted of Russians, Servians, Bulgarians, Greeks, Armenians, Georgians, Circassians, and Christians, from Asia Minor, and the northern parts of Syria; men, women, and children, on foot, horses, camels, mules, and asses; the green banner of Mahomet waved at the head of the procession. The first evening we encamped near the village that occupies the situation of antient Jericho, forming one of the most extraordinary sights I had ever witnessed; in the centre of the camp was pitched the tent of the Moosillim, but the greater part of the pilgrims passed the night on the earth, in the open air, singing, and performing other exercises of devotion.

At two o'clock after midnight the drum of the Dalhis announced the hour of departure, and we continued our march, by torch-light, towards the Jordan, which we reached at sunrise.

The banks of the river are so beset by tamarisks, willows, oleanders, and other shrubs, that the sacred stream is not visible, except on the nearest approach. Making their way through the thick bushes, men, women, and children, plunged into the water with the greatest eagerness and show of religious fervour. Many of the pilgrims jumped in with their clothes on, and others had their garments handed to them, which, being dipped and wrung out, were carefully folded up, to be preserved as holy

reliques. Most of our party swam across the rapid stream of the Jordan, which is here not much wider than the Thames, a little below Oxford, and, from the opposite bank had a full view of this singular spectacle. The water was of a white muddy colour, and had a brackish taste.

On our return to the western side of the river, we left the pilgrims; and thinking this a good opportunity (notwithstanding the advice of the Moosillim to the contrary), went by the ruined convent of St. John, along the plain incrusted with salt, a distance of about six miles, to the north-western side of the Dead Sea. Our Arab guides had endeavoured to alarm us as to the consequences of bathing in these pestiferous waters; but we made the experiment, and found that, though two of our party were unable to swim, they were buoyed up in a most extraordinary manner. The sensation perceived immediately upon dipping was, that we had lost our sight; and any part of the body that happened to be excoriated, smarted excessively. The taste of the water was bitter, and intolerably saline.

From this experiment some of us suffered a good deal of inconvenience, an oily incrustation being left upon the body, which no attempt at washing could remove for some time; and several of the party continued to lose portions of skin for many succeeding days*. Upon

* According to an analysis of the water of the Dead Sea, made with the

the shore of the Dead Sea, we found many pieces of bitumen, and in the water saw several small shell-fish, not unlike periwinkles. The mountains on each side of the northern extremity are exceedingly high, rising abruptly from the margin of the water, and extending towards the south, as far as the eye can reach. On our return to the camp of the pilgrims, the procession was beginning to move; they halted at the distance of two hours from Jerusalem, but we entered the city that night.

The scheme of our journey to Petra now occupied all our thoughts, and we waited impatiently for the performance of the promises of the governor of Jerusalem, and the arrival of the Sheikh from Karrac; but we soon began to discover that the letter to Hebron had never been despatched, and that the Moosillim had no serious intentions of giving us the least assistance. If the expedition was

most scrupulous exactness by Dr. Marcet; the contents of one hundred grains of the water were found to be as follows:—

| | GRAINS. |
|---|---|
| Muriat of lime - - - - | 3,920 |
| Muriat of magnesia - - - | 10,246 |
| Muriat of soda - - - - | 10,360 |
| Sulphat of lime - - - - | 0,054 |
| | 24,580 |

Its specific gravity is 1,211, and if the salts be only desiccated at the temperature of 180°, they will amount to 41 per cent. of the water, but if reduced to a state of perfect dryness, their weight is one-fourth of the fluid.

Vide *Philosophical Transactions* for the Year 1807.

to be undertaken, we were to depend upon ourselves for its performance. We accordingly bought horses, and equipped ourselves and our attendants in the most ordinary dress of Bedoueens, consisting of a shirt of cotton, over which we had a coarse thick frock of the same material, an *abba*, or cloak of woollen stuff, with broad brown and white stripes; the covering for the head was a square handkerchief, with alternate red, green, and yellow stripes, folded up in a triangular form, (fastened to the crown of the head by a worsted rope,) with two of its corners depending from the ears, while the other hung down the neck. Our costume was completed by a pair of red boots, the most expensive article of our dress, which cost thirteen piastres, and by a belt, or girdle, in which we carried our pistols. The party consisted of Captains Irby and Mangles, and their servant, Ibrahim, a Christian Arab, a native of Tiberias; Mr. Bankes, with his domestic, the renegado Hadgi Mahomet, a soldier belonging to the Pasha of Egypt, who was by birth an Italian, and acted as his dragoman; and myself, with James Curtin my interpreter *, the Tartar Mustafa, who had come with me from Constantinople, and Georgiolio, an Armenian, who was to take charge of my horses. The Greek

* By birth an Irishman, who had been for eight years in the service of M. Belzoni; his zeal, fidelity, and knowledge of the Arabic language, were of the greatest use to me.

servant, Nicolo, was sent with all our baggage and valuables, to await our return at Acre. We carried our money, consisting of the smallest Turkish gold coin, called *rubees*, each equal to two piastres and thirty paras, rather less than two shillings, concealed in leathern belts about our waists.

We respectively assumed the Arab appellations of Abdallah, Hassan, Halleel, to which the title el Beg* was usually added, and Osman, which was the name I had adopted.

We mounted our horses, and, two hours before dusk, on the 6th of May, rode out of the gate of Bethlehem, under the guidance of a single Arab, to whom Mr. Bankes had formerly shewn great kindness, in being the means of procuring the liberation of his son from prison. We took the road to Haleel-rochman, or Hebron, famous as the burial-place of Abraham, and slept the first night in the convent at Bethlehem.

*May* 7. At an early hour in the morning we took leave of our hosts, the priests; and, passing by the pools of Solomon, ascended the Frank Mountain, a high conical hill, reported to have been defended for forty years, after the expulsion of the crusaders from the rest of the Holy Land. From its summit it is easy to catch different glimpses of the Dead Sea, and a white point was indicated

* The prince.

to us as the situation of Karrac, on its eastern side. From the mountain of the Franks we visited the Labyrinth, consisting of natural grottos, on one side of a deep and gloomy ravine. The ruins of Tekoa, which we next reached, presenting only the foundations of some considerable buildings, stand on a slight eminence, from which the Dead Sea is also to be seen. The country hence to Hebron is more cultivated, and of a more inviting aspect, than the vicinity of Jerusalem; and the sides of the hills are partially covered with the prickly oak, arbutus, and fir-trees. Continuing our route, we rode by several camps of *Fellahs*, or cultivating Arabs, who treated us with civility, offering us *lebbin*, or sour milk, and inviting us to stop the night in their tents; but we moved on, and passing an Arab village, entered Hebron at dusk. The Sheikh received us kindly, and allotted us a small room, attached to the châ̂n; and when we stated to him the object of our journey, seemed to make no objection to our proceeding to Wadi Moosa.

*May* 8. The next morning we walked about the town, apparently populous, but of no very great dimensions, and surveyed, from the outside, the mosque which is built over the sepulchre of Abraham; an edifice of such sanctity, that, even in our present correct costume of Arabs, we dared not attempt to enter it.

The antient and lower part of the mosque is formed of

enormous stones, some that appeared to be about twenty-six feet in length; and, from the general aspect of the building, resembling neither Grecian, Roman, nor early Christian architecture, it seemed to me to be possibly of Jewish origin. Though we were not allowed to enter the sacred precincts of the mosque, Hadgi Mahomet, the attendant of Mr. Bankes, and my Tartar, were admitted; and reported, that they had seen in the interior four or five tombs, covered with red velvet. The sepulchre of Abraham was more richly decorated than any of the others. At the mouth of a well, sunk in the interior of the building, stood a dervish, who, for a slight gratification, wrote down the names of the devotees who consulted him, and then dropped the paper, carefully watching its manner of descent: if it fell perpendicularly, without any vibration, the omen was good; otherwise it betokened ill. The fate of the name of my Tartar was of the latter complexion, and the effect of this evil augury was visible during the rest of the journey; for, naturally rather a coward, he ever afterwards betrayed signs of the most ridiculous terror.

When we visited the Sheikh, and repeated our request, he desired us to wait; saying, that a caravan was expected from Wadi Moosa, and that we should accompany it, on its return. We now called upon the Seraff, or Jew banker, who was reported to have great influence with the Sheikh,

and endeavoured to win him over to our interests. Mr. Bankes also presented a watch to the Sheikh, which, however, he received reluctantly, and seemed, on the whole, discontented and unwilling to assist us. We soon learned that the watch had been given by the Sheikh to the Jew, apparently with a design of shewing that he did not think the present of sufficient value for himself. On our again calling on the Jew, we found the Sheikh in close consultation with him; and we now offered the sum of three hundred and fifty piastres for guides to conduct us to Wadi Moosa, the great object of our expedition. At first it was hinted, that for that sum we should be forwarded to Karrac; but on our persisting in the substitution of Wadi Moosa for that place, it was finally agreed that for four hundred piastres, which should be instantly paid into the hands of the Jew, our guides should be ready to attend us early in the morning.

The Jew afterwards shewed us the synagogue, and as the bargain seemed perfectly arranged we retired with satisfaction to our chân. But on the following day the business was as little advanced as ever; during the course of the night the Sheikh had become alarmed at his own determination, and called upon us at the chân, accompanied by the elders of the town, and the guides, who had been selected for the journey. In the presence of these people, the Sheikh stated who we were, whence we had come, and the place

to which we were desirous of proceeding; and then offering the four hundred piastres to the guides, asked them if they were willing to undertake the affair; as, for his part, he was quite unable to promise us the least aid or protection. The reply of the guides, notwithstanding the tempting offer of the money, was decidedly in the negative. On this, the Sheikh most honourably returned the money, and the present of the watch, declining to have any thing more to do in the business.

We rose, and mounting our horses, immediately quitted the town. Under the shade of some olive-trees, at a short distance from Hebron, we halted, and consulted together what course to adopt. The Bedoueen Arab, who had accompanied Mr. Bankes from Jerusalem, and another who had joined us on our road to Hebron, used every argument to induce us to return; but, we decided to send a messenger to the Sheikh, offering to adopt his proposal of going first to Karrac, and requesting that he would furnish us with guides for that purpose; but our offer met with a decided refusal. An Arab horseman now rode up to us, and being told of our dilemma, volunteered himself to be our conductor to Wadi Moosa; we immediately embraced his offer, and, having proceeded about two miles, perceived two horsemen riding in full speed after us, and shouting to us to stop. We halted in a corn-field, and sent the Arnaout of Mr. Bankes to the

Sheikh, to hear the proposition which he now had to make. While waiting for the return of the messenger, we fell asleep, and, on our awaking, found ourselves entirely alone: the two Arabs who had hitherto attended us had availed themselves of this opportunity quietly to make their escape, and the horseman who had lately so courageously proposed to be our guide to Wadi Moosa, had equally withdrawn.

Soon after, our messenger returned accompanied by a Jew, the brother of the Sheikh, and two Arabs, with a letter addressed to Sheikh Yousouf Amgelie, the governor of Karrac, and a demand of three hundred piastres, or two hundred piastres and the watch, for permission to proceed thither. We agreed to pay one hundred and fifty piastres, together with the watch, and giving the Jew two rubees for his share in the negotiation, and one (about two shillings) to the brother of the Sheikh, for which he appeared very thankful, we rode off with our two guides to the tents of the Yellaheen Arabs, to which tribe they belonged.

We proceeded onwards in a south-easterly direction, and watered our horses at a well near some patches of standing barley, of which our Arabs cut a sufficient quantity for our horses; and, filling one of their *abbas* with it, pointed out to us, in the distance, the black spots on the desert, the tents of their brethren, where we were to sleep.

It was dusk when we reached the camp, the watch dogs were on the outside, and the few camels, sheep, and goats, they possessed, were already placed for security within the interior circuit of the encampment. The number of tents was about thirty-five; the tribe seemed very poor, but they received us with hospitality, and killed a sheep for our entertainment. The women, of whom the Arabs appeared very jealous, remained concealed during the whole time of our stay. In the Sheikh's tent, where we slept, we contracted, for the first time, an unceasing source of torment, from the tribes of vermin with which these people swarm; and never were entirely free from this annoyance until we had washed in the baths of Dgezar*, the famous Pasha at Acre.

*May* 10. When we arose on the following morning a negotiation was to be commenced with our host, an affair of no small difficulty with a cunning and prevaricating Arab. After much altercation, it was agreed that we should pay seventy-five piastres to the Sheikh, and ten to each of five guides who were to attend us, armed with muskets, to Karrac. Though the terms of the contract were received by the Arabs with apparent indifference, and even reluctance, no sooner was the bargain concluded, than they all fought, throwing stones at each other,

* The Butcher.

drawing their swords, and contending who should be selected for the journey.

We quitted the tents in the company of the Sheikh, and soon were joined by our five guides, carrying their muskets. At a short distance, we endeavoured to persuade the Arabs to change their route, and lead us directly to Wadi Moosa, offering them the considerable bribe of five hundred piastres; but this proposal they rejected, saying, that not even five thousand piastres should induce them to undertake so perilous an expedition; that the Arabs of that country were of a most savage character, and occupied a mountainous district, concealing themselves in the clefts of the rocks, and hurling down stones and other missiles, on any strangers who might venture to approach their strong holds. In an hour and a half we reached a tank, where we watered our horses, which occupied us nearly half an hour, as we possessed only one small skin, with which to draw the water. Now, our guides finding that we were so rich, from the imprudent offer we had made them of five hundred piastres to take us to Wadi Moosa, resolutely demanded the same sum, or they would not even conduct us to Karrac*. This

* It is but fair to observe here, that this was the only attempt we ever met with among the Arabs, to depart from the terms of an agreement they had once made; for, though eager to stipulate the most advantageous conditions for themselves, they, on all other occasions, shewed the most honourable inclination to adhere to their bargain.

imposition we as firmly resisted, telling them they might return to their camp if they pleased, but that we should continue on our way, as we well knew the direction of the route we had to follow. We mounted our horses, and leaving them behind, pursued our journey through a very mountainous tract of desert: the prospect was a dreary one, but, having got so far, we were determined, at all hazards, to proceed. At the expiration of three hours one of our guides made his appearance behind us, on the summit of a hill, waving his turban, and vociferating with all his might. Though not a little pleased at this circumstance, we still affected great indifference, and, seemingly regardless of his shouts, continued slowly on our way. In a short time he came up, together with two other of the Arabs, who overtook us breathless with haste, and now appeared willing to continue with the party, as if no difference had ever taken place.

Travelling onwards for about a league, the country assumed the most fantastic shapes: conical hills of a white chalky appearance, whose summits were covered with flinty substances, seemed to have been produced by some powerful convulsion of nature, as if the bowels of the earth had been turned up and exposed to view. From these eminences we enjoyed one of the most commanding prospects of the Dead Sea, and of the great plain that extends from its southern extremity. The sight, though

cheerless, convinced us, at least, that the project of reaching the eastern side of the sea was not entirely impracticable. We began to descend, leading our horses down a most difficult and dangerous path for two hours, till we reached a small pool of rain-water, not far from which stood the remains of a ruined Arab fort, with loop-holes, commanding the pass. Near the water a few trees were growing, producing a fruit, called by the Arabs, the doom-apple; it is very different from the doom-palm of Egypt; the fruit is of the size of a small plum, of a reddish yellow colour, and of a pleasant acid sweet taste, which we found very refreshing. About sun-set we reached the plain, and proceeding southward about one hour, entered a ravine, where we determined to stop for the night, though much against the inclination of our guides, who urged us to pass the valley of the Dead Sea, and cross the river Naher-el-Hossan, or Horse River, where we should be in security; but the darkness of the night, the fatigue of the day's journey, and the want of confidence in our Arab conductors, determined us to adhere to our original resolution.

We endeavoured to make a fire with the wood * lying about, but owing to the great quantity of salt with which

* During our examination of the coast of the Dead Sea, we found great quantities of the trunks of the palm-tree thrown up on the shores, and seemingly preserved by their perfect impregnation with salt. Jericho was formerly cele-

it was impregnated, our attempt was unsuccessful, and we were obliged to pass the night, without even the luxury of a cup of coffee. Our only refreshment consisted of some flour mixed with the water we had brought from the pool in our goat-skins, and our repose was disturbed by the distant barking of dogs, which our guides told us proceeded from a station of Bedoueens, who might have seen us from the opposite side, and were probably watching our movements.

*May* 11. Before day-light we left the ravine, and continued our route along the foot of the high mountain-ridge, whose sides were sometimes formed of pure rock-salt, fragments of which had rolled down, or were seen hanging in other places as stalactites from the perpendicular sections of the rocks. We now struck across the sandy plain, leaving the more marshy country to the left, and reached a tract grown over with reeds, acacia, tamarisk, the mustard-tree, and a great variety of other shrubs, that would have afforded the most interesting objects of research to a botanist. The more open country, near the banks of the Horse River, was cultivated with barley and wheat, and the natives, of a wild and savage appearance, were of a dark bronze colour. Though early in the morning, the heat was intense, and we approached the Arabs, who were

brated for its dates, but now there are, probably, not more than a dozen palms growing near that spot, and few are observable in the neighbourhood of the Dead Sea.

employed in getting in their harvest, (contrary to the advice of our guides, who represented them as being of a very vicious character,) in the hopes of obtaining some provisions, for which our meagre fare of the preceding night had made us very keen. They conducted us to some rude wigwams, formed of reeds, where we saw several of their tribe employed in beating out their corn; they behaved to us with great respect, as we had thought it prudent here to assume the character of soldiers, belonging to Mahomed Aga, of Jaffa, sent by him, on some business of his, to Karrac. We were treated with the doom-apple, pounded into a paste, and mixed up with butter, which we found very palatable; but we were so tormented by flies, and our horses so bitten by them, as to stream with blood, that we were compelled soon to take our leave. When we offered them a remuneration for their hospitality in money, they at first refused it; but, at length, when we told them that our master, Abou-Nabout, of Jaffa, would be displeased with us for not rewarding their kindness, they reluctantly consented.

These Arabs call themselves Goharnees.

The distance across the valley we had passed was computed to be about fourteen miles; and the rugged tract we entered upon at the foot of the mountains, to the east of the Dead Sea, was strewed with large fragments of porphyry, granite, breccia, serpentine, and basalt, fallen

down from the rocks to the right. Our route was E.N.E. for three hours, and afterwards, until six o'clock in the evening, was north; when we halted on the banks of a small and rapid rivulet, flowing through a ravine, beautifully wooded with oleanders, acacia, and a few palm-trees.

*May* 12. At three o'clock we turned to the east, and began a steep ascent, through the gorge of the mountains, that brought us, after three hours, within sight of the fortress of Karrac. On our way thither we were hailed by some Arabs, who had seen our fire during the night; and, on their approach, we exchanged the reciprocal Mussulman salutation, "Peace be on you, on you be peace*." Their intentions had, at first, been hostile, but seeing we were well armed, they allowed us to proceed without molestation; and, after passing a stream, that, rising at the foot of the mountain of Karrac, turns a mill, and waters some gardens, planted with olives, figs, and Indian corn, we descended into the deep ravine that surrounds the perpendicular rock of the fortress. The ascent was so steep as to oblige us to dismount, and with much fatigue we reached the western entrance, formed by a long winding passage, apparently cut with great labour through the natural rock. At the other extremity of the excavation, the ruins of extensive buildings appeared before us; on the left stood

* Salem alicum, alicum salem.

the remains of a square edifice, which had, probably, been formerly the keep of the fortification, and on the right were dilapidated walls of another building of some magnitude. The whole seemed of Saracenic architecture. The place had the air of having formerly been much more populous; but the houses of the present inhabitants were mean, built of mud, flat-roofed, and very low. Some ingenuity was, however, displayed in the manner of supporting the roofs, effected by two arches of stone, on which were placed reeds and sticks, and over all a coating of mud. The only mosque in Karrac was in ruins, and there were also to be seen the remains of a Greek church; in the exterior walls of the fortifications were several Arabic inscriptions. Our guides took us to the house of the Sheikh, situated in the centre of the town; but he was not at home, being absent at the village of Khanzeer, distant about three hours from Karrac, whither he had gone to celebrate his marriage with a young bride, of the age of twelve. But the son of the Sheikh, Abdelkader*, gave us a friendly reception, invited us into his house, and immediately presented us with coffee. When he had read our letter from the Sheikh of Hebron, and been informed of the object of our journey, he despatched a messenger to the village, to announce our arrival to his father, the Sheikh Yousouf Amgelie.—We soon attracted the

* The Slave of Power.

curiosity of the inhabitants, who came in crowds to see us; and among them was a Greek priest, who recollected Mr. Seetzen* and our lamented friend Sheikh Ibrahim. The inquiries of the priest after the fate of the latter excited feelings of regret in us all, for we had all known him in Egypt. The priest, in whose house he had lodged when at Karrac, spoke of him in terms of the highest commendation; and it was, probably, because he supposed we were countrymen of M. Burckhardt, that he offered us his good offices with the governor of the town. Sheikh Yousouf did not return the following day, which we employed in exploring the ruins of the town and castle of Karrac, from whence the city of Jerusalem and the mountain of the Franks are clearly discernible across the Dead Sea in a north-westerly direction. The population of Karrac is half Christian and half Mahometan, who appeared to live on a very amicable footing. The women here were not under the usual restraint, but went with their faces uncovered, upon which were generally to be seen dark bluish spots, made, I believe, with antimony; from one of their nostrils a ring was frequently suspended. They wore robes of blue cotton, and a black silk veil drawn across the point of the chin only. Their conversation with us was perfectly unembarrassed; and one of them being ill, asked us for medicine, the beneficial effect

* The author of *A Brief Account of the Countries adjoining the Lake Tiberias, the Jordan, and the Dead Sea*, published in London, 1810.

of which increased the good opinion they began to entertain of us. The Shiekh arrived on the following day; during which we had been regaled by his brother, who had invited us and several of his friends to a feast, at which he treated us with a sheep. Our interview with Sheikh Yousouf was very different, and much more satisfactory, than any we had yet had; he was a fine, venerable old man, with a white beard, apparently about sixty years of age, with manners blunt and sincere. His first question was, Are you come to see the country of your forefathers? And when we explained to him the nature of our journey, and asked him to assist us, he replied instantly, that he would consent to accompany us to Wadi Moosa on the payment of four hundred piastres The bargain was struck, and we left Karrac on the following morning, 17th May, in company with the Sheikh.

On riding out of the town, we passed some sepulchres cut in the living rock, and continued our route in an easterly direction over a fine undulating country, covered with good pasturage, for two hours, when we reached the tents of his son Ismael: for the tribe of which our Shiekh was at the head, have their magazines of corn and places of retreat in the fortress of Karrac, but pass the greatest part of the year in the open and cultivated country around. During this day's journey we had been joined by an Arab, who had just returned from the Wahabees, by whom he had been

carried off at the time they were in the neighbourhood of Karrac. He had been detained by them for three years, a part of which time he had spent at Derajeh, their capital, which he stated to be very strong; and told us that while he was among them, they were governed by a female of great courage and enterprise. Every evening, he said, the Wahabees gave their horses camels' milk to drink, to render them strong and capable of bearing fatigue.

Ismael, who appeared to be the favourite son of the old Sheikh Yousouf, had a fine intelligent countenance, was about twenty-four years of age, and gave us a cordial welcome. On entering his tent, he and every one present rose to receive the Sheikh, under whose protection we were travelling; a respect the Arabs always pay to their chief, and which they usually shewed to ourselves. We all interchanged the kiss of friendship; a ceremony that consists in first touching the hands of each other, and then applying your own hand to the mouth and forehead. On being seated, a fire was made in one corner of the tent, of bushes or camels' dung, before which an old Arab placed himself and roasted some coffee in an iron ladle, constantly stirring it with a small rod of the same metal attached to the ladle by a chain. It was then pounded in a wooden mortar, and afterwards boiled. The *caffee gee* drank the first cup to prove that it was not poisonous, and the beverage was then distributed among the guests, and to any casual visitors who might

happen to enter. We were afterwards served with curds and whey, to be drunk out of the hollow of our hands, for we saw no spoons, and our supper consisted of an entire sheep cut in pieces and boiled in *lebbin**, or sour milk, for the Bedoueens never boil their meat in water, and seldom, if ever, eat bread with their flesh. Their manner of eating, which we were obliged to conform to, was as follows:—The pieces of mutton were thrown into a large wooden bowl, and the fat of the tail being cut in lumps, was placed on the top, for this was reckoned the chief delicacy, and was bolted with the greatest avidity. A smaller bowl containing hot butter† was brought in and poured over the meat. It was necessary to be on the alert, for as many as could get near were squatted round the mess, and every hand was eagerly employed in snatching and tearing the pieces of meat. Those who were not able to approach the bowl, stood at the backs of the other more fortunate guests, and thankfully received the half-gnawed bones, which they finally threw to the dogs who formed the outer circle. The repast was concluded by a dish of *burgul*, made of green wheat, peeled

* "Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother's milk."—Exod. chap. xxiii. v. 19. This was a custom probably practised by some neighbouring people: or perhaps the prohibition applied only to the particular milk specified, that of the mother.

† Their butter made from the milk of goats, or sheep, is churned by the women, who suspend from the apex of three sticks placed pyramidically, a skin partly filled with milk and partly inflated. This they move rapidly to and fro till the process is completed.

and boiled in the same sour milk that had served for the cooking of the mutton. It was eaten by being formed into balls by the hand, and then, by the help of the thumb, dexterously thrust into the mouth. The above description of an entertainment in the tent of a Bedoueen Arab, is not in the least exaggerated; and applies, pretty uniformly, to every feast given to us during our residence amongst these people.

In the vicinity of this camp were various ruined towns.

On the morning of the 18th, at six o'clock, we left the tents, taking a south-easterly direction over some rich country abounding in corn and good pasturage; and, passing by the tomb of the Sheikh Abou-Taleb, halted, at ten o'clock, at the encampment of Sheikh Salim, under whose protection, our friend Yousouf told us, it was absolutely necessary to place ourselves, before we could proceed to Wadi Moosa. The manner of entering an Arab camp is this:—if the Shiekh happens to be in company with the strangers, you ride directly through the circle towards the tent of the chief; but, if not, the custom is, to form in line at some distance from the encampment, and, on nearer approach, suddenly to wheel round, at the back of the other tents, and thus reach from behind the residence of the chief. A spear of bamboo, under the iron head of which usually hangs a bunch of ostrich feathers, is reared up against his tent, and distinguishes the abode of the Sheikh, in front of which, at a short distance, is piqueted

his mare. Our first reception from Sheikh Salim was very hospitable, and he gave us the common repast of a boiled sheep; but when we came to touch upon the subject of our further expedition, he demanded the sum of two hundred and fifty piastres for his attendance on that occasion. This we obstinately refused, as we had been led to think that fifty piastres would have been sufficient; and we rode back from his tents, as if intending to give up the journey altogether, rather than submit to such an imposition. Our conduct enraged Sheikh Salim, who exclaimed, in a fury as we retreated from his camp, that he wished "a flash of "lightning would come and sweep us all from the face of "the earth;" and he added, that if it had not been for his friend Yousouf, he would have had five hundred piastres. After a good deal of dispute, it was arranged that he should receive one hundred and fifty piastres, for which he agreed to join our party; and we left his camp, our route being due south, until we reached, in the evening, the tents of some Bedoueens of his tribe. Our friend and protector, Sheikh Yousouf, had here some difficulty in satisfying the curiosity of the Arabs, who were all eager to know who we were, whither we were going, and why we had come into their country. He conciliated them by saying that we were Englishmen, and, though not strictly Mohammedans, yet we had saved Acre from being burnt by the French; and, to convince them of our consequence, displayed and read to

them our different fermans. "Here," said he, "is the "ferman of Abou Nabout of Jaffa; and here is the ferman "of Solyman, Pasha of Acre; this is the ferman of Sali, "Pasha of Damascus; and this the ferman of Mahmoud "Ali, the Pasha of Cairo; and here," cried he, kissing that from Constantinople, and then respectfully applying it to his forehead, "is the ferman of the Sultan; and this," pointing to my janissary, "is the Tartar of the Sultan." But, notwithstanding these powerful recommendations, they persisted in thinking we had some sinister views in our visit, that we were come to discover the wells of water, for the purpose of informing our King of them, who would then attack and conquer their country. These fears Yousouf attempted to dissipate, by telling them, that from all he had heard, our country was one of the best in the world, and that we were come only to see the old buildings, to which none similar existed in England. During our stay in this camp, we observed many of the old women, and a few of the young ones also, with their cheeks scratched and their faces covered with blood, and were informed that they had mourned the day before for the death of a female belonging to the family of the Sheikh.

*May* 19. This day we passed some ruins, apparently Roman, as we descended into the valley of Ellasar, which was covered with large masses of volcanic rocks; and having mounted the opposite slope, we arrived at a camp of

thirty-five tents. One of our party here had accidentally dropped a telescope, which the Arabs would not, at first, restore, without a large bribe, but ultimately gave it up, on receiving a few piastres. Near this spot we saw a ruin of some importance, with a few columns standing, probably Roman; and from hence a white streak in the distant desert was pointed out to us, as the *Darab-el-hadg*, or the road to Mecca. After seeing the ruins, we returned, and slept that night in the camp.

*May* 20. Our route to-day was due south till twelve o'clock, over a country covered partially with low bushes, when we reached an encampment of fifteen tents in a small valley, where we dined. They were of the tribe of Hadgea. During our stay, a great confusion was occasioned in the camp, by an alarm of thieves who were stealing their sheep, and the women set up a loud shout; the men ran to the top of the hills with their matchlocks slung over their shoulders, and we also went with them to their assistance, but the marauders were gone.

From this place we saw the fortress of Shubac, and passing by two volcanic craters on our left, and one on our right, observed a Roman road formed of lava, upon which we continued for some distance, when we lost sight of it, and arrived at Shubac at six o'clock in the evening.

We approached the town on the north-east side by a

circuitous path, and entered by an iron gate. On our ascending the hill towards the town, the natives had assembled in front of the castle with their arms, taking us for Bedoueens; but when they saw we were accompanied by the Sheikhs Yousouf and Salim, they conducted us to a châ̂n, brought corn for our horses, and treated us with coffee, mutton, and some excellent figs, preserved in such a manner as to retain their flavour and green colour, as if they were freshly gathered. Shubac is a very strong position, but chiefly in ruins, among which we observed the remains of a church, probably of the architecture of the time of the Crusades. The ravine that surrounds the town is about three hundred feet deep, cultivated with gardens full of fig-trees, and the calcareous rock is excavated into several sepulchres. Soon after our arrival, an alarm was spread here also, of thieves who had carried off the goats of the inhabitants, but their pursuit was fruitless. The Sheikh of Shubac, Ebn-Raschid, was not in the town, but encamped at some distance.

*May* 21. At four o'clock in the afternoon, as the Sheikh was not yet returned, we received an order to go to him in his tents, but we deferred our departure till the following morning. As we rode through the crowd of inhabitants, accompanied by the Governor of the fortress of Shubac, Solymân, we overheard them exclaim, What white Arabs! In three hours we reached the camp of

Mahomet Ebn-Raschid, but he was not there: we met, however, a merchant, whom we had seen at Hebron, there, who complained grievously of having been robbed by his people of some linen, which they would not return.

On the 23d, Sheikh Mahomet Ebn-Raschid arrived, and with him also came the Sheikh Abou-Zeitun*, the Governor of Wadi Moosa. The latter proved afterwards our most formidable enemy, and we were indebted to the courage and unyielding spirit of the former for the accomplishment of our journey, and the sight of the wonders of Petra. When we related to the two Sheikhs, who had just entered the camp, our eager desire to be permitted to proceed, Abou-Zeitun swore, "by the beard of the Prophet, and by "the Creator," that the *Caffres*, or infidels, should not come into his country.

But Ebn-Raschid, who began to shew a great inclination to oblige us, from the moment he knew that we had a ferman from the Pasha of Egypt (by whom he had been much employed in carrying wood from Cairo to Suez, for the purpose of building boats), appeared firmly resolved to further our plan. Now, there arose a great dispute between the two Sheikhs, in the tent, which assumed a serious aspect; the Sheikh of Wadi Moosa, at length, starting up, vowed that if we should dare to pass through his lands, we should

* The Father of the Olive-tree.

be shot like so many dogs. Our friend Mahomet mounted, and desired us to follow his example, which when he saw we had done, he grasped his spear and fiercely exclaimed, " I have set them on their horses, let me see who dare stop " Ebn-Raschid." We rode along a valley, the people of Wadi Moosa, with their Sheikh at their head, continuing on the high ground to the left, in a parallel direction, watching our movements. In half an hour we halted at a spring, and were joined by about twenty horsemen, provided with lances, and thirty men on foot with match-lock guns, and a few double-mounted dromedaries, whose riders were well armed. On the arrival of this reinforcement, the chief, Ebn-Raschid, took an oath in the presence of his Arabs, swearing, " by the honour of their women, " and by the beard of the Prophet, that we," pointing to our party, " should drink of the waters of Wadi Moosa, and go " wherever we pleased in their accursed country." The Sheikhs, Yousouf and Salim, had remained behind; our good old friend, the former, thinking that we were doomed to destruction by our own rashness, as he had employed every argument, in vain, to induce us to desist from the undertaking. But both parties were equally pledged not to retreat, and nothing could exceed the obstinate resolution of our protector, the Sheikh Ebn-Raschid, which hitherto had been exerted in our behalf in the most disinterested manner, as he had as yet neither received nor been promised

any remuneration. Having quitted the ravine, a most magnificent view opened upon us; the rugged peak of Mount Hor was seen towering over the dark mountains to our right; to the left, and before us, was a boundless expanse of desert: on the sloping sides of the hills close to us, were growing many carob trees, in a hollow of the trunk of one of which we found some good water; soon afterwards we arrived at the tents of Ebn-Raschid, amounting to about seventy, pitched in three distinct circles.

As the tents of an Arab encampment are always of the same construction, a general description may serve for them all. They are made by the women, of goats' hair, mixed with that of the camel or coarse wool, and are usually twenty-five feet long and about fourteen feet wide. One half of each tent is allotted to the women, where all cooking takes place, and the other half is occupied by the males, a screen separating the females from view. In the division appropriated to the men during the day, the kids and lambs are driven for shelter during the cold nights of severe weather. The height of the tent is, in the centre, about six feet, sloping gradually to the sides, which are stretched out by cords. The middle is supported by three poles, attached to the ground by ropes, made also of goats' hair; the tents are pitched in an instant, and with so little regard to convenience of local situation, that large stones lying in the way are frequently enclosed within them. The sides of the

tents are fastened to the upper part by wooden skewers, and can be taken off or put on at pleasure according to the state of the weather. The furniture of these dwellings consists of different sized wooden bowls of the rudest workmanship, the common hand-mill of the East, two or three kettles of copper or iron, a few goat-skins to hold milk or water, cushions and carpets made by the women of coarse materials, but otherwise not inelegant. In the tent, the chief seat is generally indicated by the saddle of a dromedary, on which the Sheikh reclines. At sun-set, the flocks of sheep and goats are driven into the interior circle of the encampment, and are stationed near the tents of their respective owners, the kids and lambs being fastened by a rope, pegged down, with nooses to prevent them from sucking their dams. Lastly, the camels enter majestically, and the old ones of their own accord kneel down close to the tents of their masters. In the morning, the she-camels are the first to be milked, affording a beverage which is immediately drunk; they are then driven out to feed upon the more scanty and distant herbage: afterwards, the sheep and goats being milked, are turned out to graze near the camp; and liberty is now given to the young ones to play about in the immediate vicinity.

Next morning we observed that our camp was situated near the edge of a high and precipitous cliff, from which the tents of some Arabs were visible in the hollow, and at

its foot, a small village, where we were accustomed, during our stay here, to water our horses. In front of us was seen Gebel*-Nebe-Haroun (Mount Hor), under which the black and frowning cliffs of Petra, assumed the most fantastic shapes; in them we were able, by the help of a glass, to distinguish several ruins, amongst others what appeared to be an amphitheatre, and innumerable excavated tombs or temples.

From this eminence, Gebel-Tour, or Mount Sinai, was also pointed out to us in the farthest horizon, having the appearance of a small conical hill, and reported to be at the distance of three days' journey. The nearest extremity of the Red Sea was said to be only at the distance of one day and a half.

These various objects, of such uncommon interest, excited our eager wish to proceed, and we awaited impatiently the return of the messenger who had been despatched by Ebn-Raschid early in the morning, to learn if the people of Abou-Zeitun were encamped at Wadi Moosa. At twelve o'clock the spy came back, and reported that our enemy had posted his men to guard the stream on both sides of the valley, in such a manner that he would not allow the shepherds of our Sheikh to water their flocks. We now sent a messenger to Abou-Zeitun, with a proposal that if

* The Mountain of the Prophet Aaron.

they would allow us to pass, we would not touch their water; but he returned for answer, that we should neither pass through their lands nor drink of their water*.

This message enraged still more our Sheikh, who, when we had advanced, in the morning, two miles further, to a point from whence we saw the village of Wadi Moosa, and the tents of our enemies above it, again sent to Abou-Zeitun, to demand if he would not obey the orders of the Sultan, and of the Pashas, and particularly of Mahmoud Ali, the Pasha of Cairo. At the same time, he despatched also a messenger to his own tents in the rear, and to the fortress of Shubac, with an order to bring up four hundred men, and a request that our friends, the Shiekhs Yousouf and Salim, would accompany them. At one o'clock the

* The manners and customs of the natives of these countries remain unchanged since the days of the passage of the children of Israel from Egypt into the Land of Promise; and it is from the striking aptness, and peculiar felicity of expressions which constantly occur in the books of the Old Testament, that, even without adverting to the feelings of devotion inspired by the sacred authority of the Scriptures, the Bible is, beyond all comparison, the most interesting and the most instructive guide that can be consulted by the traveller in the East.

We were now in the land of Edom, to the king of which country Moses sent messengers from Kadesh.

17 "Let us pass," said he, "I pray thee, through thy country; we will not "pass through the fields, or through the vineyards, neither will we drink of the "water of the wells: we will go by the king's high-way; we will not turn to "the right-hand nor to the left, until we have passed thy borders."

18 "And Edom said unto him, Thou shalt not pass by me, lest I come out "against thee with the sword."—*Numbers*, 20th Chapter.

messenger to Abou-Zeitun returned with an unfavourable answer, saying that he was always ready to obey the ferman of the Sultan, and of the Pashas, but that he knew that our fermans were fabricated by Jews*; besides which he heard that we poisoned the waters, made the springs dry up, and that all Franks were necromancers. And he again swore, that while he lived we should never come there.

At this time, an old Sheikh, who was nearly blind, and of a poor and miserable appearance, but said to be of great authority among the Arabs of this part, visited our tents; and when he found the Sheikh Ebn-Raschid so much interested in our favour, he also declared himself in our behalf. At four o'clock the messenger who had been sent for the reinforcement, returned with the Arab troops, and the Sheikhs Yousouf and Salim at their head. They advanced in a line singing, the women in our tents greeting their arrival with the loud and prolonged scream with which they always animate their husbands to the fight. When the two Shiekhs had taken possession of the tents allotted them, Yousouf drew me aside, and earnestly entreated me to use my influence with my companions to induce them to give up the design and quietly return. A violent storm of rain, with

* Alluding, we supposed, to Maleem Heim and his brothers, who hold high situations under the Pashas of Acre and Damascus, and are supposed to be their chief advisers.

thunder and lightning, came on, and we were completely drenched in our tents. My interpreter was now sent with the present of a blunderbuss to Ebn-Raschid, saying, that as it seemed impossible to execute our project without the loss of blood, a circumstance that would probably be fatal to all our party, we requested that he would consent to conduct us back. The spirited Sheikh, however, declined the present till he had performed his promise, and vowed "by God "and the Prophet, that we should not return before we had "seen the *hasna*, or treasury of the temple of Pharaoh, in "Wadi Moosa." Thus matters remained that night.

On the following morning, 26th, our affairs wore a better aspect: three people from Haman, a town on the *Darab-el-Hadg* * in the desert, arrived at our tents, for the purpose of inspecting our fermans, and they were satisfied that they were genuine. Abou-Zeitun, having heard of this, consented to allow us to pass to Wadi Moosa, though not to drink of the water; and, in token of peace, he and all attendants were seen advancing towards our camp with a piece of white cotton attached to a spear. Shiekh Yousouf, finding now that there was no immediate danger of bloodshed, became very eloquent in our behalf, saying, that the sole object of our journey was to visit the tomb of Aaron; and when questioned by the Arabs, if we were Mahometans, cunningly replied, "They are English, and did they not

* The road of the pilgrims to Mecca.

" drive the French from Acre, and out of Egypt?" and again had recourse to the ostentatious display of our fermans, a ceremony so often repeated, that it was with difficulty we preserved the necessary gravity on the occasion. Accompanied by Ebn-Raschid and about twenty horsemen, we descended into a valley, and came to the stream that had been the subject of so much contention, above which stood the mud village of Wadi Moosa. The natives appeared to have evacuated the village, and were seen on a height in tents, observing the movements of our party. The stream of water was clear and rapid, but after a short course disappeared under the accumulated fragments of rock that had been detached for ages from the surrounding precipices. Our conductor, Ebn-Raschid, with an air of triumph, insisted on our watering our horses at the rivulet; and while we halted for that purpose, we examined a sepulchre excavated in the rock to the right of the road. It was of considerable dimensions: at the entrance of the open court that led to the inner chamber were represented two animals, resembling lions or sphinxes, but much disfigured, of colossal size. In the sides of the interior apartment were cut deep niches. As this was the first object of curiosity that presented itself, we began to measure its dimensions; but our guides grew impatient, and said, that if we intended to be so accurate in our survey of all the extraordinary places we should see, we should not finish in ten thousand

years. We remounted our horses, and rode into a most sombre and terrific pass, varying from eight to fifteen feet in width; the sides of which were formed by completely perpendicular precipices, rising to the height of from two hundred to five hundred feet—occasionally the lofty summits alternately inclined towards each other, so as often to exclude almost entirely the light from above. In some places niches were sculptured in the sides of the rocks, in which statues had probably formerly been placed; and we saw frequent representations of rude stones, mysterious symbols of an indefinite figure, detached in relief from the body of the rock. Water-courses, or earthen pipes, situated at various heights, were observable on either hand of the pass: the tamarisk, oleander, wild fig, and other shrubs, obstructed the passage below, or hung from crevices in the cliffs above. When we had proceeded rather more than half a mile, on looking up, an arch, perhaps belonging to an aqueduct, was seen connecting the opposite precipices. We continued to explore the gloomy winding passage for the distance of about two miles, gradually descending, when the beautiful façade of a temple burst on our view. A statue of Victory, with wings, filled the centre of an aperture like an attic window; and groups of colossal figures, representing a centaur and a young man, were placed on each side of a portico of lofty proportion, comprising two stories, and deficient in nothing but a single column. The temple was entirely

excavated from the solid rock, and preserved from the ravages of time and the weather by the massive projections of the natural cliffs above, in a state of exquisite and inconceivable perfection. But the interior chambers were comparatively small, and appeared unworthy of so magnificent a portico. On the summit of the front was placed a vase, hewn also out of the solid rock, conceived by the Arabs to be filled with the most valuable treasure, and shewing, in the numerous shot-marks on its exterior, so many proofs of their avidity; for it is so situated as to be inaccessible to other attacks. This was the *hasna*, or treasure of Pharaoh, as it is called by the natives, which Ebn-Raschid, our conductor, swore "we should behold." While Mr. Bankes was employed in sketching the temple, my two friends, Captains Irby and Mangles, climbed with great difficulty up some broken steps on the left of the edifice, to the top of the rocks; and reported, on their descent; that they had seen, at some distance to the westward, a vase of colossal dimensions, probably belonging to another temple.

In front, but rather to the right of the temple, were many excavated chambers. Leaving this splendid monument on the left hand, we continued for about three hundred yards in the same narrow and awful pass, when we reached more excavated apartments, and at the termination of the rock to the left, arrived at the amphitheatre we had seen from the Arab camp during our negotiation with Abou-Zeitun.

Thirty-three steps (gradini) were to be counted, but unfortunately the proscenium not having been excavated like the other parts, but built, was in ruins; so that we had here also to regret, as in most other similar monuments, the absence of that portion of an ancient theatre. A large open space now presented itself, strewed over with fragments of tiles, bricks, and the rubbish of former buildings. The only edifice of consequence was on the left of the area, which had the appearance of a palace; the rocks which enclosed the space on all sides, with the exception of the north-east, were hollowed out into innumerable chambers of different dimensions, whose entrances were variously, richly, and often fantastically decorated with every imaginable order of architecture*

I abstain from attempting to enter into a more minute account of the wonders of this extraordinary spot, conscious as I am of my own inability to do them justice, and because the public will probably soon be favoured with a much more detailed and accurate description of them from the pen of Mr. Bankes, whose zeal, intelligence, and unwearied assiduity in copying inscriptions, delineating remains of antiquity,

* The city of Petra, in the time of Augustus, was the residence of a king, who governed the Nabathæi, or inhabitants of Arabia Petræa. This country was conquered by Trajan, and annexed by him to Palestine; but it afterwards formed a particular province, called the Third Palestine, or Salutaris. In more modern times, Baldwin I., King of Jerusalem, becoming master of Petra, gave it the name of Mons Regalis.

and ascertaining points of curious classical research, cannot be surpassed. The chief aim of my narrative will be to endeavour to give the reader some insight into the mode of life followed by the wandering tribes of Arabs we fell in with, and to relate the adventures of a journey not in the usual route of ordinary travelling.

Taking a south-westerly direction from the ruined palace, we arrived at the foot of Mount Hor, at three in the afternoon; where, finding an Arab boy tending some goats, he offered to conduct us to the summit for a small remuneration. The ascent was rugged and difficult in the extreme, and it occupied us one hour and a half to climb up the almost perpendicular sides. A crippled Arab hermit, about eighty years of age, the one half of which time he had spent on the top of the mountain, living on the donations of the few Mohammedan pilgrims who resort thither, and the charity of the native shepherds who supply him with water and milk, conducted us into the small white building, crowned by a cupola, that contains the tomb of Aaron. The monument is of stone, about three feet high, and the venerable Arab, having lighted a lamp, led us down some steps to a chamber below, hewn out of the rock, but containing nothing extraordinary. Against the walls of the upper apartment, where stood the tomb, were suspended beads, bits of cloth and leather, votive offerings left by the devotees; on one side, let into the wall,

we were shewn a dark looking stone that was reputed to possess considerable virtues in the cure of diseases, and to have formerly served as a seat to the Prophet.

From the summit of Mount Hor, amongst a chain of mountains, extending from East to West, Mount Sinai was clearly distinguishable; to the westward was an expanse of boundless desert; to the East were the high cliffs from whence we had caught the first glimpse of the situation of Petra, and behind which were pitched the tents we had left; below us were the dark and rugged rocks that we had just explored. From this point also we perceived the temple to the north, to which belonged the great vase that had been observed by Captains Irby and Mangles. We descended, and, late in the evening, and greatly fatigued, reached some tents, about four miles to the north-east of the mountain, where we were to sleep that night. Here a curious scene occurred; the bridles of our horses were seized by three or four different hands, each Arab striving to claim us as his guests; when it was decided who should have the honour of entertaining ourselves and giving barley to our horses, we, with some difficulty, made our way after Ebn-Raschid, who was borne away to a tent by the torrent of our hosts. The following morning, the 27th, having purchased a sheep, we returned to the ruins of Petra, which we examined more at our leisure; when the discovery of other ravines and of more numerous

excavations rewarded our search, and filled us with astonishment. But, notwithstanding we made many attempts to approach the temple we had plainly seen from Mount Hor, and on the summit of which was fixed the vase observed by us at a distance, we were unable to succeed, from the constant succession of intervening chasms and the inextricable confusion of the various ravines in which we got entangled. We had left orders that our sheep should be cooked by a certain hour, and on reaching the appointed spot where we were to dine, were not a little astonished to find that, after its throat had been cut, it had been thrust into a large pot, without even having its wool or entrails removed. That night we returned to the tents where we had slept the preceding evening, but met with a very different reception. The eager hospitality of the day before was exchanged for the most undisguised rapacity; we had bought the sheep, and the Arabs, finding that we possessed money, set no bounds to their demands. Every article was to be paid for at an exorbitant rate, and no sum seemed sufficient to gratify their avarice. But this was the only occasion, during our stay among the Arabs, on which a pecuniary remuneration was expected from us, in exchange for the rites of hospitality: the bargains we were in the habit of making with the different Sheikhs, covered all other expenses, and while we travelled under their protection, they considered us as their guests.

*May* 28. At an early hour, with the weather exceedingly cold, we returned to the tents, where we had lodged the first night after we left Shubac, and where the Sheikhs Yousouf and Salim, were waiting our arrival with some degree of anxiety.

Here we were to take leave of Ebn-Raschid, who, by his intrepid and disinterested conduct, had completely won our esteem, and our regret at parting appeared to be mutual. We rewarded him with four hundred piastres, and made a present to his brother of fifty piastres. To the courage of Ebn-Raschid we were indebted for a sight of the wonders of Petra; though, perhaps, a spirit of animosity, on his part, against the Arabs of Wadi Moosa, had its share in exciting him to assist us in our undertaking. It appeared that a free access to the water in the neighbourhood of that village, had long been a subject of contention between the two Arab tribes, and this was probably thought a good opportunity to decide the dispute. On taking leave of the Sheikh, he regretted that he could not accompany us to Shubac, but gave us his iron truncheon, to be shewn on our arrival there, to ensure us a proper reception. That evening Sheiks Yousouf and Salim accompanied us to Shubac, and early on the next day, the 29th, we set out on our return to Karrac, which we now began to look upon as our home: we returned by a route different from that by which we had come. On ascending from a valley, in

which we had travelled during two hours, we fell in with a swarm of locusts on the ground, benumbed by the extreme coldness of the wind, and strewed so thickly that our horses could not pass over without trampling upon them. In the evening we reached the tents we had formerly occupied on our road to Petra, where we slept, and met with the same hospitable reception as before.

*May* 30. This day we travelled in a north-westerly direction, and reached a village where we stopped for the night, and were well treated. The Arabs inquired if we had brought back the treasure from Petra, and offered us a *bournous* and a watch for sale, which we supposed to have belonged to some unfortunate Moors who had been murdered in the ravine of Petra, by the inhabitants of Wadi Moosa, on their return from Mecca to Gaza. Here we were feasted with camels' milk, and a pilau of rice; the latter dish had become rather a treat. Our direction to-day was north, and in the evening we entered the camp of Sheikh Salim, from whom we parted the next morning. He had never been a great favourite with us, and Sheikh Yousouf told us, when we were alone, that he was of a bad character. About mid-day, *June* the 1st, our party was the cause of alarm to two Arabs, who saw us approach, and, fixing their handkerchiefs on the tops of their spears, shouted to some of their brethren in tents at a distance, but Sheikh Yousouf quieted their fears To-day we crossed the valley

of Elassar, and bathed in the hot baths of Solomon, situated on the southern side nearly at the bottom, near some corn-fields, where one of our Arabs having plucked some green ears of corn, parched them for us, by putting them in the fire, and then, when roasted, rubbed out the grain in his hands*.

That night we halted in a camp belonging to the village of Khanzeer, where was the young bride of the old Sheikh Yousouf. Here I lost my Bible, which was probably stolen by my friend Yousouf, or his father-in-law; for the latter sent to me to say, that if I would give him an oka of coffee (equal to two pounds and a quarter), worth eighteen piastres, he would return it. We remained in these tents the next day, and on the following evening arrived at Karrac. The country we had passed over from Shubac, consisted of downs well adapted to pasturage, and in some places tolerably cultivated with wheat and barley.

The people of Karrac were employed in bringing their harvest into the fortress, and the house of the Sheikh was full of Anasee Arabs, who had come with their camels from the east to procure corn. To compliment Yousouf, with whom their tribe had lately had some disputes, they had brought him, as a present, an iron truncheon, by which they acknowledged his dignity as a chief; and, in return for

* This practice we frequently witnessed; it is mentioned also in the Old Testament:—"And she sat beside the reapers, and he reached her parched "corn, and she did eat and was sufficed, and left."—*Ruth*, c. 2., v. 14.

this mark of respect, he bestowed upon them six camel loads of wheat and six of barley, together with a sword of value and a *benish* for their own Sheikh.

A further examination of the southern extremity of the Dead Sea occupied the attention of the rest of the party during a few days after our return to Karrac; but I accompanied Yousouf to the tents of his son Ismael, distant some hours from the town, with the intention of hunting the antelope, and to have further opportunities of witnessing the manners of the Arabs. It appears that the office of Sheikh is generally hereditary, though it does not necessarily descend to the eldest son; and quarrels among the rival children, who dispute the succession of the father, are not uncommon. The tribute paid to the chief by the Arabs of his tribe, consists of every tenth sheep or goat born, every twentieth camel, and a certain portion of all plunder taken. The neighbourhood of Karrac is extremely fertile, producing great crops of wheat and barley; the first is usually cut with a sickle, the latter pulled up by the roots; the harvest is then carried on asses and camels into the fortress, where it is trod out by oxen and horses; for the inhabitants dare not perform this process in the fields, lest they should be attacked by some of the wandering hordes.

Amongst the presents sent by Nasar, the chief of the Anasees, to our Sheikh Yousouf, was a very powerful mare, about fifteen hands three inches high; but we had seen a

fine grey horse of sixteen hands high, in the possession of Sheikh Salim, which he valued at one thousand piastres. Their horses are usually shod. As a remedy for sand-cracks, they employ sour milk, in which is dissolved a great quantity of salt; this mixture, in a boiling state, is poured into the crack, and, as it appeared, with a very good effect. In their own persons, they have recourse to the use of the actual cautery: in the case of a sprain, for instance, they mix up a ball of camels' dung and sand, and, when red hot, apply it to the part affected. I never saw an example of leprosy amongst them.

Their sheep are large, with short fine wool and fat tails: the colour of their goats generally black. To fetch water from the wells, the women are employed in driving the asses, which are always kept in the immediate neighbourhood of their tents, and these animals are also used in carrying the light furniture of their camps. On these occasions of moving their stations, the children are placed in panniers suspended on each side of the camels, which the mothers ride upon and guide. The wives of the Sheikh, amounting to three or four, according to his riches, are mounted in a sort of wicker bower, which screens them from the sun and observation. An Arab, in general, has, however, but one wife; though a Sheikh, in addition to his plurality of wives, possesses male and female black slaves, procured from Egypt. A few oxen are kept for ploughing; but, except in the villages, it is rare to meet with cows.

With respect to the dress of the Arabs, the better sort among them have sheep-skin pelisses hanging half way down their thighs, the wool worn inside, and the exterior skin tanned of a reddish brown colour. The *abba*, or outer garment, is sometimes black, at others with broad or narrow stripes of black, brown, or yellow colours; attached to a leathern belt, worn round their waist, is a pocket containing their flint and steel, and the matches used for their muskets. The substance employed for this latter purpose is procured from the oscar* plant, which grows near the eastern shores of the Dead Sea, to the size of a small tree, producing a fruit juicy and delicious to the eye, but hollow within, or filled with a grating matter disagreeable to the palate. The filaments contained within the fruit are employed by the natives to stuff their cushions, or as tinder for their match-lock guns, and are said to be combustible even without being impregnated with sulphur. Most of the Arabs go barefooted, but the richer wear sandals of leather, or untanned hide. Their manner of eating, as described before, is extremely uncleanly; and as they are frequently without water sufficient to wash themselves after a repast, they rub their hands with sand and then wipe them on the sides of their tents. The vermin with which their persons are infested, and the manner in which they endeavour to get rid of them, are in the highest degree disgusting. One of their chief articles of diet is *lebbin*, or sour milk; they form

* Called by Seetzen aoeschaer, and supposed by him to be the poma Sodomæ.

besides balls of curds, mixed with a great deal of salt and dried in the sun on the tops of their tents; of this kind of cheese they occasionally make also a beverage by dissolving it in water.

The common Bedoueens seldom pray, but superstitiously carry about their necks bits of paper, upon which characters are written by travelling dervishes, supposed to possess various virtues, among others, that of warding off the evil eye. Old Yousouf was, however, more regular in his devotions, and during the whole of our journey with him, observed the stated periods of prayer, with his face religiously turned towards Mecca. We were on such good terms with the Sheikh, that though it is a custom with a Mahometan when he prays, to take care that an infidel is not interposed between him and the sacred temple of the Prophet at Mecca; and if that cannot be avoided, to put a sword, or some other weapon of that sort, between him and the stranger; yet Yousouf shewed us the respect to omit that precaution; and once, when one of his attendants happening to come into the tent during his devotions, placed a ramrod in that situation, the Sheikh himself took it up and laid it on one side. On parting I gave him a pocket compass, and, as the situation of Karrac is nearly due north from Mecca, his satisfaction at such a present was not to be expressed, as he now said he should always know precisely how to place himself at the hour of prayer.

When my companions returned from their excursion to the southern extremity of the Dead Sea, we were all amused by being present in the tents of Ismael at a sort of court of inquiry and judgment held by his father the Sheikh Yousouf. The dispute was this:—some of the people belonging to his son had, on a predatory excursion to the Hauran, a district to the north of Karrac, distant more than one hundred miles, carried off about sixty cows; and two natives of that country, together with a man from Salt, were come to reclaim them at the hands of the chief of the tribe. But notions of equity were not very firmly rooted in the mind of Yousouf; and, after great shuffling and prevarication on his part, the utmost that could be obtained from the partial judge, was a restitution of the half of the cattle, with which decision the sufferers were very ill content. We were feasted by the Greek priest, who had received us so well on our first arrival at Karrac; and, on the 5th of June, left that town, still under the protection of Yousouf, accompanied by his son Ismael, Daoud his nephew, the two men from the Hauran, and the man from Salt. A fine flat country, with corn growing luxuriantly around us, which reapers were employed in cutting, and offering various prospects of ruined towns, indicating that the population had formerly been much more considerable than at present, brought us in two hours to Rubbah, anciently Rabbath-Moab, and afterwards called Areopolis, the capital of the Moabites, a

celebrated country that extended to the east of the Asphaltite Lake. There are no traces of walls observable; but on an eminence are two ruined Roman temples, and some tanks. A small Christian camp, pitched near the hill, offered us accommodation for the night; and, on the following day, at the distance of one mile and a half from Rabbah, we saw, among the ruins of Bart-el-Carn, a large structure, that reminded us of the palace of Petra, and was apparently of Roman architecture. The forty cattle, that had been restored to the people of the Haûran, formed part of our caravan; but their drivers were by no means satisfied with the interested decision of Yousouf, told us he was a robber, and threatened that "they would drag him by the "beard to Mezerub."

From the heights on which we now were, we enjoyed many fine views of the Dead Sea, whose clear unruffled surface, of a dark aspect from the reflection of the impending rocks on its coast, was seen below us—beyond, Jericho, the valley of the Jordan, Jerusalem, and the Mountain of the Franks; and to the south, the marshy country that terminates the lake in that direction. The prospect from this eminence, embracing as it did, the whole extent of the sea, convinced us that its length has been greatly overrated, and that instead of seventy-five or eighty miles, the usual estimate, it cannot exceed forty miles.

On the 8th, proceeding northward, we reached the Wadi

Mosit, the valley of the antient torrent Arnon. The remains of an antient Roman bridge, of which one single arch alone is standing, were observable at the foot of the difficult path that brought us to the bottom of the precipice that overhangs the Naher-Arnon, and on ascending the opposite steep bank, we had left the country of the Moabites and were in that of the Amorites. This day we saw many Roman mile-stones, and frequent traces of a road of the same period.

The country was a plain district covered with smooth even turf, and we continued along the Roman road till we reached Dibân, the Dibon of the Old Testament. Our progress to-day was much impeded by the extreme heat and suffocating sensation occasioned by the *kamsin*, or wind of the desert, which literally raised a fog of sand, and exceeded in its intolerable nuisance, as old Yousouf said, any thing he had ever felt before. We reached a camp in the Wadi-Wale, the valley of a river that seemed to be liable to sudden and destructive torrents, to judge from the great number of oleanders which were torn up by the roots. Near the banks of the Wale were two rude stones placed upright, probably the boundary stones of the antient inhabitants of the country. Higher up the stream than the place where we crossed, a knowl was observable, on which was placed a quadrangular platform, made of rough stones, without cement; and about a mile lower down the valley, were the remains of a Roman

bridge, formerly of five arches, but the foundations of the piers are all that are now to be distinguished.

Passing by the foot of Mount-Nebo, from the summit of which Moses had a prospect of the Promised Land, we entered a fertile plain cultivated with corn, and stopped at a camp near the ruins of Maein, near some springs of hot water. From an eminence in the neighbourhood we had a commanding view of the Dead Sea, and saw below us a ruin of a square form, which from its position might possibly be Herodium. We took a Guide from the tents near Maein to conduct us to the hot springs, antiently called Callirhoé. Our route was south-west, and we saw on our road, near a rocky knowl, about fifty sepulchral monuments, of the rudest construction and of the highest antiquity. Four unhewn stones, covered by one large block, probably covered the ornaments or weapons of the antient Amorites. At the distance of a mile beyond, we came to the bed of the torrent Zerka Maein, where we saw ten animals, a species of antelope, but of the size of our red deer. In four hours from Maein we reached the brink of a precipice, down the sides of which a narrow zigzag path was cut, which brought us, after some difficulty, to the thicket of canes, aspines, and palms, that grow out of the crevices of the rocks, whence issue the numerous springs of hot water we were in search of. In one part, a copious stream precipitates itself from a high and perpendicular rock, the sides of which are coloured of a brilliant yellow,

from the deposit of sulphur with which the water is impregnated. A hot rapid torrent, receiving from all sides in its course fresh supplies of scalding water, flows at the bottom. From the confined situation of the spot, the steam from the water, and the rays of the burning sun, a most insufferable heat was produced; but unfortunately the day before, my thermometer, the only one possessed by the party, was found broken, and we were consequently unable to ascertain precisely the temperature of the stream. It was not possible to hold the hand in the water, even for half a minute: the deposition of sulphur was very considerable. There does not appear to have been space enough in the valley for any buildings, though Herod, who is supposed to have visited this spot for the purpose of bathing, must have had some accommodation. The distance from the springs to the Dead Sea, was estimated at about two hours.

While here, our Arab guide took a vapour-bath after the following manner:—Over a crevice, whence issued one of the springs, a bed of twigs and broom was laid, at the distance of about a foot from the water, upon which he placed himself, enveloped only in his *abba*, and remained in that state for several minutes. In the immediate vicinity of these hot sources, we saw some of the most curious plants.

From Callirhoé we returned by the same road to Medaba, near which was a great encampment of the Benesakar Arabs, consisting of more than two hundred tents, under the

command of the chief, Ebn-Fayes. In the tent of the Sheikh, which was about one hundred feet long, we found Ebn-Fayes and his brother, who were not a little astonished at the boldness of my companions in thus venturing again among them, after the example they had had of their former faithless conduct. These were the Arabs with whom Mr. Bankes and Captains Irby and Mangles had made a contract on their first attempt to reach Petra, and from whose hands they had so fortunately escaped previous to my arrival at Jerusalem. In the camp we saw a messenger who had been despatched from the Pasha of Damascus, to invite the chief, Ebn-Fayes, to come to that city for the purpose of entering into a contract with him for camels, and making arrangements to carry the *Hadg*, or convey the pilgrims from Damascus to Mecca. This was a service that had formerly been done by the Anasee Arabs, but they were now at war with the Pasha, and, as the next powerful tribe to them, the Benesakars were applied to, to undertake that sacred employment.

From Madaba, where is a large tank of hewn stone, we proceeded to the extensive Christian ruins of Umerassas, situated in a district now in the possession of the Anasees, by whom one of our party was attacked, and robbed of his *abba*, in a most violent and outrageous manner. We had proceeded alone into this part of the country, and did not rejoin our friend Yousouf, and the man of Salt, till the next

day, when we found them in the tent of the Prince of the Benesakars, at Hesbon.

The prince of this tribe made various attempts to extort from us a considerable sum of money, for permission to visit the celebrated pools in this neighbourhood; but, by timely resistance, we succeeded, at length, in obtaining free leave to go thither, though there was little to be seen. The ruins are of small extent, and the only pool we observed was extremely insignificant.—In two of the cisterns amongst the ruins, we saw many bones and human skulls.

On the 13th, we left Hesbon; and, taking the road to Salt, arrived, in four hours, at Arrag-el-Emir, where are the ruins of an edifice built of very large stones, some of them twenty feet in length. Around it were traces of hanging gardens, and large caves cut in a long range of perpendicular cliffs, some apparently intended as stalls for horses, and others for the accommodation of a numerous retinue of servants; representations of various beasts were sculptured in relief about the building. We spent the morning here, and slept at an adjoining camp.

On the 14th, continuing our route through a richly-wooded and picturesque country, we arrived, early in the afternoon, at Salt, where we lodged in the castle. At the distance of ten hours from Salt, in a direction E.S.E., are the ruins of Rabbath-Ammon, afterwards called Philadelphia, probably from a Philadelphus, King of Egypt, but now known by an

appellation derived from its original one, Amman. It was the principal city of the Ammonitæ. The ruins are those of a theatre, an odeum, a colonnade to the eastern side of the river Nahr-Ammon, and, to the west, a large building with columns, from twenty to twenty-two feet high. There are many other smaller remains, but we found no inscriptions. We passed the night of the 17th in an Arab camp, about three miles distant from Amman, on the road to Jerrasch.

Here our conductor, Yousouf, who had been persuaded to accompany us from Salt, by an additional bribe of two hundred piastres, was accused of having stolen cattle from these people four years ago. There was much disputing among them, and the Sheikh had recourse to every subterfuge to evade the accusation; but, at length, unable to deny the fact, he concluded by saying, "he was one of those "men who never returned any thing after it was once in "his power."

*June* 18. After accompanying us two hours on our road, Yousouf took his leave to return to Karrac. We had travelled so long in his company, and witnessed such extraordinary scenes together, that it was not possible to see him depart without some little regret, though he had latterly behaved very indifferently, and convinced us, on many occasions, that honesty has no place whatever among the virtues of an Arab. As soon as he left us we crossed the

Zerka (the Jabbok of Scripture), the northern boundary of the country of the Amorites; and, two hours after mid-day, arrived at the ruins of Jerrasch.

These ruins lie E.S.E. from Bişan, (Bethsan) at the distance of eighteen hours, and are of a beauty and magnificence that greatly exceed those of Palmyra: a grand colonnade runs from the eastern gate to the west, formed on both sides by marble pillars with Corinthian capitals, and terminating in a semicircle of sixty columns of the Ionic order. At the western extremity stands a theatre, of which the proscenium is preserved. This first colonnade is crossed by another, running from north to south. Two superb amphitheatres of marble, three other temples, and the ruins of some palaces, together with many Greek inscriptions, are also to be observed. All the edifices of the city are of the period of the most beautiful architecture, and conjectured to be of the date of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius Antoninus.

From Jerrasch we took the road to the valley of the Jordan, through a very picturesque country, most beautifully wooded with the Asiatic oak, (vallonia) the arbutus, the cedar, *&c.* Some spots were cultivated with corn; but the long grass, through which we had to make our way, abounded in venomous serpents.

On the following day we arrived at the village of Rajeb, situated without and below the woodland scenery, and

reached the valley of the Jordan at two o'clock in the afternoon. The distance hence to the ford of Bisan is four hours, and we entered the town of that name as it became dark.

On the 21st we reached Tiberias, a small walled city with only one gate of entrance, containing a great number of Christians, and distant about sixty miles from Acre. From Mount Tabor, where we were on the 23d, the distance to Nazareth is four hours, and the *padre superiore* of the convent at the latter place received us with great hospitality.

On the 25th, we entered Acre. Here our party was to separate, Captains Irby and Mangles intending to sail in a Venetian brig to Constantinople, and Mr. Bankes proposing to return to Egypt. In the streets of the town are to be seen some few beggars, without noses, eyes, and ears; so many proofs of the wanton cruelty of the famous Pasha of Acre, who merited and acquired the name of 'the Butcher.' Amongst other victims, the Jew, Mallem Heim, who supplied me with money for a bill on Constantinople, exhibited an extraordinary spectacle, having lost an eye, an ear, and his nose. After a stay of four days at Acre, I took leave of my former fellow-travellers, and (having changed my Bedoueen dress for that of a Turk) attended by my Tartar, the interpreter, the Greek servant Nicolo, and the Armenian groom Georgiolio, took the road along the sea-coast to Sur, the modern name of the antient city of Tyre. The first night

we slept at Mesrah, and on the 2d July, going by Zib, and over the bold and dangerous pass of Mount Blanco, formed by an artificial road cut along the side of the rock, the base of which is washed by the waves of the sea, we reached the cisterns of Solomon at Roselayn, and entered Sur in the afternoon. The Moosillim of Tyre, at present a miserable and insignificant fishing hamlet, lodged me in his house; and the next day, riding still along the coast, we halted at Sidon, now called Seyda. Our route from hence for the first two hours was N.N.E., till we crossed the Naher-el-Aoula; when we struck into the mountains to the right, and continued to ride through a small valley, containing a great number of silk-mills. The country was highly cultivated with mulberry-trees, olives, vines, and figs, planted on terraces ingeniously constructed on the sides of the hills, and offered the most beautiful scenery, that accompanied us the whole day, till we stopped at the palace of the prince of the Druzes, the Emeer Besheer. The "Convent of the Faith," the name given to the residence of the Emeer, is partly built of marble, and separated from the town by a deep valley. I first entered an inner court, in which fifty horses were piqueted, and was shortly accommodated with a room, and served with a dinner. The prince, who soon gave me an audience, was about fifty years of age, extremely courteous in his manners, and asked particularly after Sir Sidney Smith. Anxious to make inquiries, through the means of my dragoman, into the state

of the politics of Europe, he desired his attendants to withdraw, and put several curious questions to me, which proved he was not altogether uninformed of, or indifferent to, the important events of the late war. He asked if it were possible for Buonaparte to escape from the island of St. Helena, and then gave his judgment on the different characters of the sovereigns of Europe. With respect to the subjects of the Emeer, the Druzes, the commonly received opinion is, that they are descended from some dispersed parties of Crusaders, who, unable to return to their native country, fled for refuge into the mountains hereabouts. In their persons they are for the most part fair, two out of three having blue eyes; it is reported that their women, of whom they are excessively jealous, are extremely beautiful. One of the most extraordinary parts of the attire of their females is a silver horn, sometimes studded with jewels, worn on their heads in various positions, distinguishing their different conditions. A married woman has it affixed on the right side of the head, a widow on the left, and a virgin is pointed out by its being placed on the very crown: over this silver projection the long veil is thrown, with which they so completely conceal their faces, as rarely to leave more than one eye visible. The dress of the men is extremely rich and picturesque.

*July* 5. Having made a present to the chief of the attendants of the Emeer, I left Deyr el Kamar under the guidance of a soldier of the prince, and entered a valley

well watered, and most richly cultivated with mulberries, figs, olives, and vines. At a mill three hours on the road, our party was overtaken by five Metawhalee Arabs, who were returning from Deyr el Kamar, whither they had been to solicit the protection of the Emeer for their chief at Balbec. It appeared that in consequence of the death of the Sheikh of the Metawhalees, who had left an only son, a great dispute had arisen between the two brothers, the uncles of the child, who had fallen into the hands of the eldest. The younger brother had fled for assistance to the Pasha of Damascus, and it was against a threatened attack from the troops of the latter that the elder had sent a deputation to the Emeer at Deyr el Kamar, imploring his aid and protection. The prince of the Druzes had granted his request, and the five messengers were returning to Balbec with that intelligence. We agreed to travel together, and were soon joined by the *hasnadar*, or treasurer of the Emeer, who was carrying a present of two pelisses for the uncle and the young Sheikh of the Metawhalees.

In the evening, we descended the steep pass into the valley, on the north-eastern part of which Balbec is situated, and arrived, late at night, in a village belonging to the Emeer Besheer. During six hours of the following day, we kept on the western side of the valley, and then rode across it, a distance of four hours, when the ruins of Balbec appeared before us. In the house of the Sheikh of the

Metawhalees, every one was on the alert, hourly expecting the arrival of the troops of the Pasha of Damascus. The *hasnadar* of the Emeer was received with great respect by the chief, who was sitting with his nephew, about thirteen years old, surrounded by the chief men of his tribe. When the treasurer invested the Sheikh and his nephew with the pelisses, which were of red silk lined with sable, the chief kissed the robe, crying out, " I am the slave of the Emeer," and all the attendants eagerly advanced to endeavour to kiss also the garment. As the Metawhalees have a bad reputation for honesty, the *hasnadar* invited me to take up my lodgings in an old ruined house, having a marble cistern in the court, which had been allotted him for a residence.

In the morning, when we expected to pay an early visit to the Sheikh, we found, to our great surprise, that he had decamped in the night; as it seemed that, notwithstanding the promised protection of the Emeer, and the present of the pelisses, he could not overcome his terror at the threatened approach of the soldiers of the Pasha of Damascus. Our astonishment was also not a little increased when we heard, that, previous to his departure, he had ordered the tongue of an adherent of his brother to be cut out. The expected disturbances, consequent on these excesses, made it prudent to shorten my stay here as much as possible.

Balbec stands near the north-eastern extremity of the

rich and beautiful valley of El Bekaa, and immediately under the chain of Antilibanus. The ruins of "the city of the Sun" are on the south-western side of the present Arab town, whose antient and modern appellations* refer alike to the favourite idolatry of the place. But the age and founder of these celebrated monuments are equally involved in obscurity. By the natives they are attributed to Solomon, who, it is said, as an eastern and voluptuous monarch, could not have chosen a more luxurious retirement than amidst the streams and the shades of Balbec. Others have supposed that the religion of Heliopolis, in Syria, was mported from the city of the same name in Egypt, by the Phœnicians, who erected these temples for the culture of their new worship. To Julius Cæsar, Augustus, Trajan, and Hadrian, they have also been successively given; but the most probable conjecture seems to be that which assigns them to the successor of the last emperor, the wise and munificent Antoninus Pius.

Approaching the ruins from the east, the first antient building is a round temple of marble, now used as a Greek church, encircled by columns with rich Corinthian capitals. Within, the order of the edifice is both Corinthian and Doric. The portico leading to the great temple has been defaced by two modern Turkish towers built on the lateral chambers:

beyond it you enter an hexagonal court; from thence, one of a quadrangular form, and then approach the great temple. Of the peristyle of this edifice, nine columns are still standing, supporting an highly-ornamented entablature. The temple, in the greatest state of preservation, is to the south of this last building, and, like it, highly ornamented, and of the Corinthian order. The stones of the soubassement of the great temple are of enormous dimensions. Maundrell measured three, which were, collectively, sixty-one yards in length. In a quarry near the city, a stone, not entirely detached, but evidently intended to be used in building, was found * to be seventy feet long, fourteen broad, and fourteen deep. The more ornamented parts of all these buildings were procured from a quarry of coarse white marble, west of the city, and at some distance.

As it was probable that the soldiers of the Pasha of Damascus would enter the village that day, I thought it prudent to quit the place; and, ascending the range of the Antilibanus, to the south-east of Balbec, reached the valley of the Barradi, the river that waters Damascus, and slept that night at Kosahadé. Having crossed the bridge over the stream, we stopped, on the following morning, on the edge of a precipice, where is the sepulchre of Sheikh Abdelnour, at the distance of about two hours from

* Vide *The Ruins of Balbec*, by Wood and Dawkins.

Damascus, from whence the view of that city presented itself in all its celebrated beauty. From this spot, it is reported, that the Prophet looked down on its alluring prospect, but departed without yielding to the temptation of entering the precincts of the town, that he might not be seduced, by its luxury, from the pursuit of nobler objects. The distant mountains of the Haûran terminated the view to the south-east: towards the north-east was the desert country that extends to Palmyra; but, below us in the valley, were mosques and turrets rising from amidst innumerable gardens, filled with palms, pomegranates, bananas, vines, orange, and rose-trees, and watered by the several branches of the copious and rapid stream of the Barradi. Here, under cool and refreshing shades, the Turks repose on the margin of marble fountains, and think the enjoyment so exquisite, that *Sham*, or pleasure, is the only denomination by which the city of Damascus is known among the natives of the east.

On my arrival at the Catholic convent, where I first dismounted, the monks were taking their *siesta*, and allowed me to remain four hours in their court-yard, without my being invited to enter an apartment, or offered any refreshment. My horses were taken to a châ̂n, and I expected to be also obliged to content myself with the same accommodations; but the Tartar, who had been sent to the Pasha, returned with an order for a house in the Christian part of

the town, though the blows and authority of two Janissaries were required to compel the proprietor to admit me.

On the following morning I received a visit from the president of the convent at Jerusalem, with apologies for the treatment of the preceding day; but, as the insult seemed to have been studied, and as the monk had known me during my stay in that city, where I had lived in the convent and paid liberally for its hospitality, I felt little disposed to listen to his excuses. The president was come to Damascus to complain of the conduct of the Greek monks, and to solicit the interposition of the authority of the Pasha in settling the disgraceful disputes (proceeding, frequently, even to blows, within the sepulchre itself) that had long existed between them and the Catholics. On behalf of the Greeks was their Patriarch: both sides were extremely generous in the offer of bribes to interest the Pasha in their favour: the Turk was liberal of promises, and eagerly accepted the presents of each party. A few days before my arrival, the Greek Patriarch had been honoured with an audience, from which he was dismissed with all the exterior demonstrations of favour and protection. On taking his leave, a pelisse and a shawl were given him, together with a horse, which waited at the gate of the seraglio of the Pasha, and on which the delighted Patriarch instantly mounted. But the Turkish soldiers allowed him to ride only a short distance; when, suddenly meeting him

at the turn of a street, they dragged him from his horse, deprived him of his splendid shawl and pelisse, and otherwise treated him with the greatest ignominy. The law of Damascus allows no Christian to be seen on horseback in the town; and the Patriarch was content quietly to retreat to his house, where he remained confined during the whole of my stay, slowly recovering from the effects of the mortification and bastinado he had endured. It is not unlikely the same treatment was intended for the president of the Catholics; but he checked his vanity, and though he received the shawl and pelisse, was wise enough to lead his horse through the streets of Damascus.

The city is long and narrow, and the houses, built of mud-bricks, have an exterior extremely mean, which little corresponds with the display of magnificence within. Round a square court, planted with trees and containing a marble fountain, are arranged the apartments, closed up towards the court on three sides, but open to the air on the fourth. The floors of the rooms are generally inlaid with white and variegated marble, the windows are frequently of stained glass, and the walls are beautifully painted in fresco, with representations not of flowers or arabesques, but of the most curious and intricate angular patterns and mathematical figures. During my stay, the fast of the Ramadan was observed: in the day-time, therefore, the streets were deserted and the houses shut up; but at night the city was

gaily illuminated by means of lamps placed in three circular pieces of wood, suspended from cords that cross from one side of the street to the other. After sunset, the coffee-houses were also opened, and I went one evening to the most celebrated place of resort of this description, situated on the banks of three streams of the river, where the guests were entertained with dancing, singing, story-telling, and puppet-shows. I remained at Damascus a week, and was fortunate enough at length to succeed in making arrangements for my journey to Palmyra. Mahanna, the father of the present Sheikh of the Anasee Arabs, was in the city, endeavouring to effect a reconciliation between the Pasha and his son Nasar; an event he was the more anxious about, as the time when the caravan of pilgrims passes through Damascus on its road to Mecca was fast approaching. The contract for the supply of camels for this purpose (amounting to many thousands, and being a great source of profit to them,) had hitherto been given to the Anasee Arabs; but owing to the late disputes with that tribe, the Pasha had already begun to negotiate with the Benesakars for the performance of that service. The practicability of getting to Palmyra depended entirely on my being able to make terms with Mahanna; for his son had great authority in that country, and the Pasha of Damascus, so far from forwarding my views, threw obstacles in my way of getting thither, apparently unwilling

that any traveller should visit that spot till he had settled his differences with the Anasees. After a few interviews with Mahanna and his secretary, Abdarosack*, it was arranged, that on paying five hundred piastres I should be furnished with two guides and two dromedaries, who should take myself and my interpreter to the tents of Nasar, the chief of the tribe which was now encamped in the desert in the neighbourhood of Deir Athie, on this side Palmyra. For this sum, which was to be paid down, I was to be forwarded by Nasar to Palmyra, and, on my return, conveyed also to Homs, whither I had ordered my Greek and Armenian servants to proceed and wait my arrival.

On the evening of the seventh day of my residence in Damascus, the two Anasee guides, two dromedaries, and a horse, were brought to the gate of my lodgings, and we set out. We travelled all that night, and on the evening of the second day reached the camp of Nasar, distant about two hours to the north-east from Deir Athie. The greater part of the tribe, amounting to two thousand tents, was collected in this spot; the chief occupied one of very large dimensions; around him were pitched the tents of the lesser Sheikhs, each distinguished by his spear fixed in front. I delivered my letter from the father of Nasar, who received me amicably, and anxiously inquired after the fate

* The Slave of Pity.

of the negotiation with the Pasha, in which his tribe was so much interested. The news I brought was of a satisfactory nature, and Nasar promised to send me to Palmyra, whenever I should choose to depart. After a short repose, three mares and one of the oldest and most intrepid Arabs appeared ready to accompany me on the journey.

It was about ten o'clock on a fine moon-light night when I left the camp of Nasar; at three in the morning we reached Karietein, and stopped for refreshment in the house of a Christian priest. We filled a skin with water from the fine spring at this village, as we had twenty-four hours of desert before us, without any means of getting a fresh supply of that necessary article till we should arrive at Palmyra. The phenomenon of the *mirage* was very striking during this day's journey, in the evening of which we rode by a square tower or fortress in ruins: two hours beyond, we halted, made coffee, and smoked our pipes: at midnight we also stopped for three hours, when remounting our mares, we continued our route over a broad flat, with a barren ridge of hills on each side, gradually approaching and forming a valley, on passing through which at sun-rise the white marble columns of "Tadmor in the Desert" stood before us. Hastening to the stream that flows from the fountain Ephca on the S.W. of the walls of the city, we greedily drank of its brackish water, and proceeded to the Temple of the Sun, within whose vast court is contained the present village of the

Arabs who dwell amongst the ruins of the once magnificent city of Palmyra. A description of these monuments without the aid of such views as illustrate the splendid work of Wood and Dawkins, would be scarcely intelligible, and far exceeds my knowledge of architecture: they seem to be all remains of public buildings, enclosed within walls built by Justinian, and estimated to be three miles in circuit. On the south-eastern extremity of the city is the great temple dedicated to the Sun, from whence extends towards the north-west, a colonnade, which, with the exception of a few pillars of granite, is of white marble Corinthian columns, and measures in length about four thousand feet. On each side of this portico are single columns of great size standing erect, the peristyles of temples, and in one place the appearance of the remains of a circus. Around the exterior of the great temple are the small patches of cultivated soil which supply the wants of the Arabs, who have built their wretched mud huts within the court of this magnificent structure. The origin of Palmyra is involved in the same obscurity with that of Balbec, and no mention occurs of it in Roman history before the age of Mark Antony, who attempted to plunder it; but the inhabitants escaped with their most valuable effects across the Euphrates, the passage of which they defended. The city was formerly remarkable for the richness of the soil and the pleasant streams in its immediate neighbourhood, though surrounded on all sides

by a vast sandy desert. These springs of water rendered it a most important station to the commerce carried on at that period between the Mediterranean and the Euphrates; and the inhabitants of Palmyra were rich and luxurious merchants, selling the commodities of India and Arabia to the Romans, but otherwise little known, and sedulously abstaining from all interference in the wars or politics of other nations. In the time of Caracalla it became a colony of the empire, and the importance of its situation, as a bulwark against the encroachments of the Persians, induced Gallienus to associate the Palmyrene citizen Odenathus in the sovereignty, under the title of Augustus; the history of the achievements and misfortunes of his widow Zenobia, who assumed the dignity of Queen of the East, are known to every one. Since the conquest of Aurelian, who put an end to the trade and liberty of Palmyra, the city fell into decay; but its ruins are at this day in a state of astonishing preservation, partly to be ascribed to the extreme dryness of the climate, but chiefly, perhaps, to the distance of any other city, in the building of which its materials might be employed. The Sheikh of Palmyra, who depends for the protection of his small tribe upon the powerful assistance of the Anasees, received me with great civility, and his hut was soon surrounded by some of the Suchun* Arabs, who were

* The Hot Arabs.

encamped with four thousand camels in the neighbourhood, awaiting the decision of the Pasha of Damascus, on the business of the contract for conveying the caravan of pilgrims to Mecca. They were in hopes that the differences between the Pasha and the Anasees would not be terminated amicably, and were come to offer themselves and their camels for the performance of that service.

The chief question put to me was, If it were true, as reported, that Mahanna, the father of Nasar, had been *dressed* by the Pasha of Damascus? an expression employed to signify the present of a pelisse, which would have been an indication that peace and good understanding had been re-established. An answer in the affirmative, from my guide, which was partly corroborated by myself, induced them to think of leaving Palmyra, and abandoning all hopes of the profitable employment they had come in search of.

This tribe of Arabs is famous for its breed of horses, and its occupation of ostrich-hunting; and they offered me, previous to their departure, some skins of these birds, at from four hundred to five hundred piastres a-piece.

On my return from Palmyra, we were chased all night by five Arabs, whom we contrived to elude and deceive, as to our numbers, by taking care always to ride in such a manner that they could not exactly ascertain the strength of our party. When they were on our flank, we formed in line; and, when they came in the rear, we rode one

after the other. We performed the distance to Karietein in eighteen hours, and were again lodged in the house of the Maronite priest. The Christian had known Sheikh Ibrahim, and shewed me a paper drawn up by him in Arabic, containing directions as to the mode of vaccination. It appeared that, during the stay of Mr. Burckhardt in this country, many of the natives of Karietein were dying of the small-pox, and he supplied the priest with a lancet, and was lucky enough to procure some variolous matter immediately from the cow. The experiment had been tried, in the first instance, on five boys, who were bribed to submit to it by a present of ten piastres to each; the operation had perfectly succeeded, and been repeated on many other of the inhabitants; but, unfortunately, the lancet given by Sheikh Ibrahim to the priest, had been lost, and he had, consequently, discontinued the practice: it was with great satisfaction I was enabled to supply his want from a small case of surgical instruments which I carried about with me.

Between Karietein and the camp of Nasar, I met many of the Anasees on their march, with their camels and flocks, whom the want of water in the neighbourhood of Deir Athie, had compelled to break up their encampment.

I stayed with Sheikh Nasar two days, during which he took great pride in shewing me his grey-hounds, like Albanian dogs, with feathered tails, that he kept for hunting the antelope; his hawks, with which he pursued the

partridge and the hare; and some of his finest horses, particularly one for which he had lately exchanged camels, estimated at two thousand piastres. He told me, if I would stay with him a year, he would take me to the borders of the land of Yemen, for the territory subject to the Anasees extends to Bagdad and the Persian gulf. On the evening of the third day, he accompanied me to the village of Deir Athie, and hired mules to convey me to Homs, distant twenty-two hours. Before my arrival at that place, I stopped at a ruined chân, near which were assembled several pilgrims on their road to Damascus. Amongst their tents, I ventured to lie down to sleep in the shade of one of a splendid appearance, which, as it turned out afterwards, belonged to a Turk, who was travelling with his wives and attendants in great state to Mecca. My appearance in the common dress of a Bedoueen was not calculated to procure me much respect, and my repose was rather unceremoniously disturbed by one of his servants; but, it being explained that I was an Englishman, the Turk came out of his tent, and apologized for the mistake and conduct of his domestic. At Homs, I heard that my Tartar and two servants were gone on to Hamah, travelling with ten soldiers as a guard, and under the name of personages of great consequence. At that place I overtook them, and changing my Arab costume for Turkish clothes, we proceeded, by Marra, to Aleppo. A short distance on this side that city, we fell

in with the Persian *Hadg*, amounting to seven thousand pilgrims, travelling in a body; for parties of Arabs were observable on the edge of the desert, on the watch to pick up any stragglers. I was hospitably received in the house of Mr. Barker, our Consul at Aleppo, and passed three days in the society of the brother of that gentleman. The road to Antioch, and by Scanderoon, to Adana, over the romantic scenery of Mount Taurus, to Erecli, Konieh, Eski-Shehr, and Isknik, brought me, at the expiration of eleven days and nights, to the entrance of the canal of the Bosphorus. From Scutari I crossed to Pera, where I was received with every possible kindness by the family of his Excellency, Sir Robert Liston.

The above imperfect itinerary, which I have ventured to submit to the Public, requires all its indulgence; for, the reader will but too justly remark, that, in performing the hurried expedition, of which I have endeavoured to give an outline, I seem to have mounted the "courser of the colour of gold," praised by the son of Shedad, and described in the beautiful simplicity of language that forms the charm of his extraordinary romance, as a steed "whose rider may be "in the morning at Tekmet, and in the evening at Aleppo*."

* Antar.

THE END.

# NOTES ON MOSCOW.

*Exercir-Haus.*—Page 9.

THE dimensions* of this building, situated opposite the Troitsky, or Trinity-Gate, on the west side of the Kremlin, are five hundred and sixty feet long, and one hundred and sixty-eight feet broad. The number of troops that can be exercised in it, is two thousand infantry, or one thousand cavalry; but a battalion of the former, or a squadron of the latter, are all that are usually manœuvred in it. A degree of cold, equal to — 10° Reaumur, is thought sufficient to warrant the use of the building for the evolutions of the troops, but much more depends on the weather being wet, windy, or snowy. It was begun in the spring of 1817, the latter end of April, and finished by the end of September of the same year. It is entirely of brick, with the exception of the soubassement which is faced with sand-stone brought from a place called Pitgrino, about twenty-eight versts from Moscow, and four versts from Mashkova; from whence comes also the soft chalk-stone with which most of the soubassements of the brick houses in Moscow are faced.

* The length of Westminster-Hall is two hundred and seventy-five feet; its breadth seventy-four feet. The great saloon of the Palazzo della Giustizia, at Padua, is three hundred feet long, one hundred feet broad, and one hundred feet high.

*Monuments of Minin and Pojarsky.*—Page 10.

THE weight of the statues is seven thousand pouds, (sixty-three pouds equal one ton English), and the groups in bronze weigh twelve hundred pouds.

The able sculptor and councillor of state, M. Martos*, made the model in plaster, and the chief founder and councillor of college, M. Yakimoff, cast them in bronze at St. Petersburgh, on the 5th of April, 1816. In the beginning of June, 1817, the statues, under the care of the Corps of Engineers belonging to the department of "the Water Communication," were conveyed up the river Volga, as far as Nizney Novgorod, the scene of the story which they represent; where, having been shortly exposed to the view of the inhabitants, they were carried up the river Occa, to the town of Kolomna; from whence, by the river Moscva, they reached their final destination. The pedestal, consisting of immense square blocks of granite, was brought also by the same conveyance. On the 20th of February, 1818, a grand ceremony took place on the exposure of the monument to the Public. Twenty thousand troops were paraded by his imperial Majesty in the great area where the statues are placed, called the Krasnoi Ploshad, and they defiled in columns before the figures of Minin and Pojarsky, and the imperial family stationed in front. The bas reliefs, on one side of the pedestal, represent the inhabitants of Nizney Novgorod bringing their jewels and most valuable effects to Prince Pojarsky; those on the other exhibit the Prince driving the Poles out of Moscow.

*Kremlin.*

EXTRAORDINARY despatch was used in getting the Kremlin ready for the accommodation of the Emperor; for, early in the spring of 1816

* Improperly spelt Moros, p. 12.

the Palace was a complete ruin, but on the 4th of August of the same year, his Majesty arrived here and resided in it.

## *Population.*

BEFORE the conflagration, the number of wooden and brick houses in Moscow, amounted to nine thousand one hundred and fifty-eight; now they are, according to the last calculation, six thousand three hundred and eighteen. This would appear a very small number of houses for so large a capital; but it must be taken into consideration that some of the houses of Moscow, together with the buildings attached to them, would almost form one of the small squares of London.

When the French quitted Moscow, there were only sixteen thousand inhabitants; but last winter, 1817-18, the population amounted to three hundred and twelve thousand, including twenty-one thousand military.

## *Climate.*

THE severest frost last winter, 1817-18, was equal to — 28° Reaumur; in Petersburgh they had — 30°; but last winter was reckoned rather a mild one, for the quantity of snow was unusually great; the best proof of its mildness, for, in very severe weather there falls but little snow*.

## *Mineralogical Note.*

AMONG the specimens brought by Mr. Legh from the neighbourhood of the Dead Sea and Petra, the following occur:

* For these particulars I am indebted to the kindness of a friend established in Russia; but I regret that the communication came too late to be inserted in the account of Moscow, contained in the first Chapter.

Flint that has been apparently embedded in a calcareous rock, six hours south of Hebron.

From the south-east coast of the Dead Sea, the fragments that have fallen down from the rocks to the right of the road that leads to Karrac, are red and brown hornstone porphyry, in the latter of which the feldspar is much decomposed, Syenite, breccia, and a heavy black amygdaloid, containing white specks apparently zeolite.

Not far from Shubac, and in the vicinity of the spot marked in D'Anville's map (Patriarchatus Hierosolymitanus), as the position of antient copper mines, are specimens of Scoria.

The rock in which the excavated tombs and temples of Petra exist, is an indurated sand-stone, generally red, but in some places variegated by stripes of red, yellow, and other colours.

The summit of Mount Hor is an extremely compact quartzose sand-stone; very heavy, from a great impregnation of iron. The specimens of concrete salt, collected from the southern extremity of the Dead Sea, are not deliquescent, and seem to consist entirely of muriate of soda.

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